Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-88-167
Monday
29 August 1988

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INF Missiles Eliminated Through Launching

LD2608141088 Moscow TASS in English 1341 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—The elimination of Soviet RSD-10 intermediate-range missiles by means of launching began in the area of Chita, Siberia, on August 25.

Intermediate-range missiles are eliminated in the Soviet Union using three methods: by explosive demolition, by cutting and by means of launching.

The first two techniques have already been tested in the elimination of shorter-range missiles. Now the third method was applied.

The launches were watched by a group of U.S. inspectors. The American experts thoroughly fulfilled all verification procedures and confirmed the types of the missiles subject to elimination.

At the time of launchers, the American inspectors and Soviet officers took up positions in an observation post situated two kilometres from the launchers and missiles at the ready among pine and fir-trees of the Siberian Taiga.

A mobile command post manned by a unit headed by Maj. Vladimir Petrov was deployed nearby.

Following the launch command, a powerful explosion thundered over the forest as the ignition charge went off. The missile poised for a moment in mid-air and then, shattering the environs, soared into the sky.

A few seconds later, all that was left of the giant rocket was a mere trail of smoke.

The observers, both Soviet and American, clapped their hands in agreement, mindful of the fact that they had witnessed a truly historic event.

Three SS-20 Missiles Destroyed in Explosions

LD2808151588 Moscow TASS in English 1424 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Kapustin Yar (Astrakhan region) August 28 TASS—TASS correspondent Vladimir Isachenkov reports:

RSD-10 missiles known in the West as SS-20 missiles will be eliminated at the same place where they were tested, at the Kapustin Yar test site, 90 km south-east of Volgograd. Three out of some 600 missiles due to be eliminated in Kapustin Yar were blown up today in the presence of a group of U.N. representatives, as well as Soviet and foreign journalists.

Kapustin Yar is the oldest missile test site in the USSR. R-1, the first Soviet ballistic missile, was launched there in September of 1947. Now 75 per cent of all the RSD-10 missiles are to be eliminated there by the method of explosion, while the remaining 25 per cent will be eliminated by the method of launching at test sites in the area of Chita and Kansk. Two launches were staged already on August 25.

"I started my service at the Kapustin Yar test site in the rank of a lieutenant. I took part in the preparation of the first test launches of RSD-10 missiles. Of course, it is not easy to destroy with my own hands these sophisticated missiles. However, the elimination of medium-range missiles is the first step to real disarmament", said Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Galchenko, head of the missile elimination base. [passage omitted]

Details, Future Plans Noted

LD2808194588 Moscow TASS in English 1729 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Kapustin Yar (Astrakhan region) August 28 TASS—TASS correspondent Vladimir Isachenkov reports:

RSD-10 missiles known in the West as SS-20 missiles will be eliminated at the same place where they were tested, at the Kapustin YAR test site, 90 km south-east of Volgograd. Three out of over 600 missiles due to be eliminated in Kapustin Yar were blown up today in the presence of a group of U.N. representatives, as well as Soviet and foreign journalists.

Kapustin Yar is the oldest missile test site in the USSR. R-1, the first Soviet ballistic missile, was launched there in September of 1947. Now 75 per cent of all the RSD-10 missiles are to be eliminated there by the method of explosion, while the remaining 25 per cent will be eliminated by the method of launching at test sites in the area of Chita and Kansk. Two launches were staged already on August 25. Apart from it, specialists started the elimination of liquid-propellant missiles R-12 (SS-4) in the Lesnaya populated locality, 30 km away from Baranovichi, Belorussia, on August 8. The elimination of auxiliary equipment, RSD-10 launching installations, started on the same day near the town of Sarny, the Ukraine. [Moscow TASS in English at 1157 GMT on 27 August, in a report on the upcoming explosion of missiles at Kapustin Yar, adds: "It will be recalled that a missile in the container rather than the entire RSD-10 missile complex called in the West as SS-20 is liquidated at Kapustin Yar. Two other elements of the missile complex—a self-propelled launcher and a transport facility are 'disarmed' at the base of destruction in Sarny, 300 kilometers west of Kiev, Ukraine. These elements are not liquidated since they still can serve people. For instance, the Odessa heavy crane production amalgamation plans to organise in partnership with the West

German concern, Lipherr-Verzahntechnik, a quantity production of automatic cranes with a load-lifting capacity of 120 tonnes on the basis of self-propelled launchers.

["RSD-10 is fitted out with solid-propellant engine rather than liquid-propellant. As the extraction of the solid propellant is a complex and dangerous process, the explosion method was chosen for liquidation."]

RSD-10 is a two-stage 16.49-metre-long missile. Its first stage weighs 26,63 tons and the second stage—8.63 tons. Its design is as follows: Thin-walled cylinders with a diametre of 1.79 metres (the first stage) and 1.47 metres (the second stage) with solid fuel pressed into it. It is the fuel that accounts for a major part of the missile's weight.

Starting from September, during the coming three years, on the 15th and 30th of each month missiles will be eliminated in Kapustin Yar by batches, each batch consisting of three missiles. An explosion leaves a crater with a depth of 15-18 m and a diametre of some 45 m. The remnants of the exploded missile fully burn down in 35 seconds. After that bulldozers fill in the crater and prepare it for the next explosion.

The TNT equivalent of the explosion is some 90 tons. A series of experiments was conducted with a view to ensuring the complete elimination of missiles, without any remnants, and a method of placement of missiles was worked out. 259 ecological control posts were created around the RSD-10 missile elimination base at a distance ranging from 6 to 80 km. Specialists of the USSR Weather Service Committee, the USSR Ministry of Public Health and the USSR Academy of Sciences are also taking part in this work. The missiles are brought here with their nuclear warheads off.

Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Galchenko, head of the missile elimination base, recalled that one RSD-10 missile was exploded in Kapustin Yar last July. This was done after the arrival at the test site of a group of American inspectors who demanded the dismantling of one of the missiles for them to be able to check the dimensions of its stages. After this was done the missile was taken to a test ground and was blown up, because it was dangerous to keep it in a dismantled state.

The first Soviet shorter-range missiles, OTR-22, were eliminated at the Saryozek test site, Kazakhstan, on August 1. According to the INF Treaty, the Soviet side will eliminate 826 intermediate-range and 926 shorter-range missiles. The American side will eliminate 689 intermediate-range and 170 shorter-range missiles. The fulfilment of commitments under the INF Treaty goes together with unprecedented control measures. According to a plan, by September 1, this year, Soviet experts were to examine 26 installations in the U.S. and Western Europe, while American specialists were to inspect 133 points on the territory of the USSR, the GDR and Czechoslovakia. In the future each of the sides will permit inspectors to visit the areas of the destruction of missiles and to stage as many inspections as it will be necessary for getting convinced that all the armaments covered by the INF Treaty are fully destroyed.

Observers Applaud Destruction

LD2808172588 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1520 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Kapustin Yar, (Astrakhan Oblast), 28 Aug. (TASS)—Explosions rang out this evening on the Volga steppes: Destruction by explosion had begun of the first RSD-10 (SS- 20) missiles. For the first time in its 40 years, one of the country's oldest test sites received a large number of guests. One hundred and fifty people came to observe the destruction of this type of missile, including envoys from the United Nations headed by Miljan Komatina, secretary general of the Geneva Disarmament Conference; representatives of diplomatic missions; and Soviet and foreign correspondents. The representatives of the international public had the opportunity to convince themselves of the Soviet Union's compliance with the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles.

The guests and representatives of the international public stood on specially constructed rostrums several kilometers from the explosion site. Both UN representatives and journalists had already inspected the missiles. Taken from the launchers, they were brought here by train in launch carriers, without warheads or charges.

The command to blow them up was heard. Over the steppes, a red and lilac flame soared upwards and tiny splinters scattered over hundreds of meters. A crater of up to 45 meters wide and 15 meters deep remains at the explosion site.

Applause from the rostrums greeted this explosion, a new step on the way to establishing the non-nuclear age. The test site at Kapustin Yar is to make its contribution, as twice a month over the next 3 years SS-20 missiles will be destroyed here.

U.S. Inspectors View Explosions

LD2908132188 Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Kapustin Yar (Astrakhan region) August 29 TASS—TASS correspondents report:

A fiery ball over the Volga steppe heralded yesterday the beginning of destruction of Soviet RSD-10 missiles, to be demolished here by explosion, were blown up at the Kapustin Yar range, approximately 100 kilometres southeast of Volgograd. The missile destruction operation was viewed by a big group of U.N. representatives, headed by Miljan Komatina, general secretary of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, staff members of foreign diplomatic missions in Mowcow, as well as Soviet and foreign journalists.

"Missile destruction seemed fantastic yet until recently", journalists were told by Miljan Komatina. "Following the conclusion of the world's first agreement on elimination of two classes of nuclear weapons, the prospects of further development of the disarmament process are now favourable as never before. What we witnessed today evinces practical solution of the invariable question at negotiations on disarmament—mutual confidence, verification of compliance with obligations under concluded agreements, openness".

The missile demolition operation was viewed by American inspectors headed by Brigadier-General Roland Lajoie, director of the on-site inspection directorate of the U.S. Defence Department. He said that the work was excellently organized and testified that the Soviet Army men complied with all demands of the American side and answered all questions. After the explosion, two inspectors viewed the crater (about 20 metres deep and over 40 metres in diameter) and reaffirmed that the missiles had been fully destroyed.

Psychologically, it is a difficult job to explode missiles which took such a big effort to make. This is the opinion, for instance, of Colonel Yevgeniy Solovyev who joined the army service at the test range as a 20-year-old lieutenant. But the missile explosion work is important, since it will help reduce the risk of a nuclear war, he said.

Journalists were interested in ecological consequences of explosions at Kapustin Yar. Three bunches of missiles are to be destroyed over a period of three years twice every month (on the 15th and 30th), starting from September, with every bunch to have three missiles. TASS correspondents have been told by Vladimir Brazilov, a representative of the State Hydrometeorological Committee of the USSR, that, according to scientists, the norms of admissible limit of concentration of harmful substances would not be exceeded. The fall-out of combustion products in the Kapustin Yar area will be much less than the relevant concentration at any major industrial city. "Our task is to keep an eye over the explosions, to take air and soil samples, and give recommendations on the most favourable conditions for explosions depending on weather conditions. About 300 control points were established in Kapustin Yar area for the purpose", Brazilov said.

Soviet Team Inspects Comiso Missile Base

LD2608114588 Moscow TASS in English 1102 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Rome August 26 TASS—TASS correspondent Aleksandr Golyayev reports:

A team of Soviet inspectors today arrived at a nuclear missile base in Comiso, Sicily, where 112 cruise missiles are deployed. Its task is to check whether the number of missiles, launchers and other systems stationed at the base corresponds to the quantity which was stated by the American side during the signing of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. The inspection will last for 24 hours and can be extended, if need be, to another eight hours.

As the team of Soviet inspectors began their work at Comiso, the Italian democratically-minded public asks what will be with the base following the destruction of the missiles. Its future is far from being indifferent to the residents of Comiso, who want to turn this nuclear powder keg into a peace facility.

Communist Salvatore Zago, a mayor of the city, draws attention to the need to build a civilian airport there. This will help develop tourism and the economy of the area, he stresses. There are other projects as well: Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, for one, backed up the idea of a group of scientists to create an international laser technology center at the base.

At the same time, definite quarters deem it necessary to preserve the base in Comiso as the military facility. At a meeting with the group of newsmen who toured the base in the run-up to the visit of Soviet inspectors there a representative of the Italian military authorities maintained that after the missiles are destroyed it would continue to be under the authority of the Defence Ministry.

Head of Delegation Comments

LD2808170588 Moscow TASS in English 1616 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Rome August 28 TASS—TASS correspondent Aleksey Golyaev reports:

"Nuclear missiles should never appear in Italy's blue sky, and our group did its best to ensure it", G. Komogortsev, head of a Soviet inspection group, has told TASS. The group ended the examination of a nuclear missile base in Comiso, Sicily, where 112 cruise missiles due to be eliminated in accordance with the Soviet-American INF Treaty are deployed. "The number of missiles, launching installations and other facilities deployed in the Comiso base conforms to the amount declared by the American side", the head of the Soviet group said.

The inspection group left for home today. A send-off ceremony was held at the airport. During the ceremony a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Afairs of Italy pointed out the importance of the mission of the Soviet inspection group on verifying the initial data of the INF Treaty, as well as the contructive cooperation of the Italian, American and Soviet sides. "It is a good beginning of the joint work in Italy for putting into practice the INF Treaty. I am sure that it promotes the consolidation of world peace and security", he said.

"The Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles has entered a stage of practical realization. Peaceful explosions can be heard these days

on Soviet territory which announce to peoples of the world that those armaments are being eleiminated", the head of the Soviet inspection group said. He pointed out a high professional level of training of Italian and American specialists who had helped the Soviet inspection group to fulfil the tasks set before it. G. Komogortsev thanked representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Defense Ministry of Italy, as well as the American escort group for their assistance and support. He said that this kind of cooperation was in line with the aspirations of all the nations, with the interests of the consolidation of world peace and security.

The head of the American escort group pointed out in his speech that the mission of Soviet inspectors in Italy opened up a new page in the history of international relations. He said that the phase of the verification of initial data of the INF Treaty had been completed and its practical implementation was about to be started. In his opinion, the Soviet inspection mission, the same as similar missions on Soviet territory, promoted the development of mutual understanding and trust. He specially pointed out a high professional level of training of Soviet inspectors and said that they had demonstrated exemplary work for this kind of inspections.

According to the Soviet-American treaty, the length of inspections that last 24 hours could be extended, if necessary, by another eight hours. The Soviet inspection group found it possible to complete its mission at the Comiso base in 24 hours.

Strategic, Space Weapons Talks Continue
LD2608194788 Moscow TASS in English 1858 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva August 26 TASS—Discussions continued this week in both groups—on strategic offensive arms and space weapons within the framework of the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons.

In the space weapons group, the sides exchanged opinions in connection with the new proposals tabled earlier by the Soviet side and aimed at agreeing on a protocol to a future agreement on the observance of, and non-withdrawal from, the ABM Treaty. However, as concerns the preparation of the draft agreement proper, no headway has so far been registered here. The reason for this situation, as before, is that the American side continues to insist on tabling "additions" to the Washington agreement, aimed at changing that agreement in the spirit of a "broad" interpretation of the ABM Treaty.

Within the framework of the strategic offensive arms group the participants discussed the recently tabled new Soviet proposals concerning the protocol on inspections. Discussion was also continued of the proposals of the USSR delegation on the protocol on re-conversion or elimination. Some headway has been registered on some formulations in the protocols mentioned. The Soviet side favours an all-round revitalisation of the work on this component of the activity of the delegations.

The American side has tabled a number of new formulations to the draft treaty on 50-percent cuts in strategic nuclear arms and to protocols related to it. These proposals are being studied by the Soviet side.

Work continued on the implementation of the Moscow agreements on questions of limitations on large-range air-based cruise missiles and heavy bombers. In this field also the Soviet side follows the line of working out effective restrictions on these strategic nuclear arms and ensuring effective control over their observance.

The USSR delegation also favours the earliest implementation of the Moscow agreement in the matter of control over the mobile ICBM launchers. Specific formulations on this score were tabled by the Soviet side at the beginning of this current round. However, so far no constructive reaction has come to these Soviet proposals from the American side.

Delegations Arrive for Nuclear Test Talks
LD2708151288 Moscow TASS in English 1309 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva August 27 TASS—The USSR delegation arrived here today to take part in the next, third, round of the Soviet-American full-scale negotiations on limiting and ultimately halting nuclear tests.

Igor Palenykh, head of the Soviet delegation, said at the airport that the current round of the talks should become a watershed one in the dialogue between the USSR and the United States on this important problem of nuclear disarmament.

He noted a successful implementation of the first part of the joint experiment to monitor nuclear testing and said that an atmosphere of businesslike and constructive cooperation, which was established between the sides, enabled them to hope for a successful advancement towards the principal goal recorded in the mandate of the talks—total cessation of nuclear weapon tests.

The U.S. delegation arrived in Geneva on the same day. Its chief negotiator Paul Robinson positively evaluated the joint work of Soviet and American experts in monitoring nuclear tests and assured that the U.S. delegation would strive to look for approaches to outstanding problems in a constructive spirit.

Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable'
LD2808174388 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 28 Aug 88

["International Observers Roundtable" program with All-Union Radio commentators Yevgeniy Tikhonovich Grachev, Vyacheslav Georgiyevich Lavrentyev, and Viktor Nikolayevich Levin]

[Text] [Levin] Hello, esteemed comrades. Several very significant events have taken place this week. First among them has been the beginning of talks between representatives of Iran and Iraq—representatives at the foreign minister level—under the aegis of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, on a cessation of the war between those two countries. An agreement had been reached previously, and a cease-fire actually came into effect on 20 August, but now the talks are beginning. This is a complex and difficult stage and I think it is worth talking about in some detail how they are likely to go and what can be expected.

[Grachev] The very fact that the talks have begun is generally encouraging and inspires optimism. The fact is that this war, which has lasted just under 8 years, has been very costly to both of the sides in the conflict. We have repeatedly mentioned the figures for the losses, which have been serious for the countries involved in the conflict, and not only human, but also material losses. It has been a fratricidal war, and this is something we have spoken of more than once. Be that as it may, however, the time has now come when both sides have shown political wisdom, have shown an understanding of each other, and have taken the first step to meet each other halfway. They say in the East that the longest journey begins with the first step; and now that first step, possibly the most agonizing step, has been taken: The talks in Geneva have begun.

[Lavrentyev] Though of course it will be a long road.

[Grachev] Yes, you're right. It will be a long and difficult road. There will probably be a lot of work to be done, both by the representatives of the countries involved in the conflict and by the representatives of the world community, including the UN secretary general. Nonetheless, the step has been taken, and taken in the right direction.

[Lavrentyev] And here I think it should be remarked that, in the untying of this very tight knot, the cooperation of our two countries—the Soviet Union and the United States—has come into its own, though it seemed at times that even here our interests were, if not directly opposed, at least divergent.

[Levin] What you are saying is certainly not without foundation, but I would like to comment that the way to look for political settlements of acute problems has been very clearly seen in the approach to the Afghan problem. The Afghan problem has probably been the first point at which the positions of the Soviet Union and the United States have found conjunction. There both the Soviet Union and the United States acted as guarantors, though we do still have certain grounds for reproaching the United States as guarantor. But all the same this principle, which was reflected in the Afghan settlement—in the complex of agreements signed on Afghanistan and around it—has provided the key which I think has also helped the opposing sides in the Iran-Iraq conflict to emerge from their deadlock.

[Grachev] But I would like to touch now on certain other circumstances which actually led to the beginning of the talks and to the cease-fire in the battle zone; namely, Iran and Iraq's relations with their neighbors. Iraq felt in this respect a very serious influence from the Arab countries, which had an interest in ending the conflict as soon as possible. One cannot discard that factor, since the Arab neighbors were insisting that Iraq join in the dialogue at the earliest possible moment. In turn, Iran's position was strongly affected by the internal situation in that country, which, as you know, is experiencing a very intense exhaustion of all its resources and a growing political isolation in the world. Also, since the spring the news from the front has been all bad. These circumstances, which have arisen both against the background of the conflict and around it, have also been not the least factor in bringing the 8-year-old conflict to the stage of settlement.

[Levin] Of course, that is a factor that merits attention. No event in world politics takes place within narrow limits. In our world, as we know, problems of interdependence and mutual influence have assumed particular importance, especially recently. And there is no doubt that in order to make sense of a particular event you must, of course, take the complex of problems. To come back to what we've been saying, I'd like to remark that undoubtedly the development of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue—the successful development of that dialogue—has given a powerful impetus to the search for ways of achieving a political settlement in other regions as well. Yes, indeed. In some areas our points of view are close, in others they coincide, in others they diverge; but there is an understanding of the need to settle the most acute problems. And although, I repeat, the United States has not always behaved in the best way—we know about the huge naval presence of the United States in the Gulf, a dangerous presence—nonetheless, the Americans had no interest at all in the continuation of that conflict, let alone a deepening of it. As for our country, for all these 8 years, practically, we have been stubbornly and insistently emphasizing the need to stop the war. We have been stubbornly and insistently calling on both sides to see reason, and in that sense Soviet diplomacy has played a prominent and positive role.

[Lavrentyev] This week Geneva has been the scene of some other very important talks dealing with the settlement—and again under UN aegis, with the direct participation of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar—of

the Cyprus problem. The meeting there was attended by representatives of Cyprus—Cypriot President Vasiliou and the representative of the island's Turkish community, Denktas. Both sides reaffirmed their willingness to solve the Cyprus problem by means of negotiation only, with UN mediation, and agreed to meet in Nicosia on 15 September to continue the talks. Well, as you know, the Cyprus problem is also a pretty tangled and complicated one. It is not going to be easy to solve, and there will be a great deal of work to be done. But the main thing is that there is goodwill on both sides and a willingness to tackle the problem. Let us hope that in the end it will be solved to the mutual agreement and satisfaction of the sides.

[Levin] I would add to that that another very important meeting has taken place in Geneva: between Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. And what they talked about—as one can imagine from the reports we've received—was the role of the United Nations in the search for a Near East settlement. Practically everyone is now saying that the United Nations can and must play an important part in this.

[Grachev] Because it is necessary to make a start at last on unraveling another knot—perhaps the most complicated one—which has been more than 40 years in the tying. I refer to the Near Eastern knot.

[Lavrentyev] And of course the destiny of the people of Palestine, because this is the key problem in the whole matter of a Near East settlement.

[Grachev] Of course, this is the question. As you know, in all the occupied Arab territories, on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the entire Arab people of Palestine have risen in revolt. The fighting in the occupied Arab territories has been going on now for 8 months, virtually without interruption. The punitive forces have been using not only batons, not only tear gas, but also firearms and armored vehicles to crush the uprising. The Palestinians have no weapons except stones. Indeed, at one time the Western press described these actions by the Palestinians as the revolution of stones. An interesting tendency can be observed in that uprising. There is a weapon, it seems, that is stronger than machineguns, stronger than armored vehicles, stronger than entire military machines. It is the Palestinians' main weapon: their strength of spirit and determination to fight to the end.

You know, formerly among the Palestinians a person's position in society was determined by the level of his education and his social background. Now among Palestinians, and especially among the young, one's prestige and position in society, if I may so express it, depends on participation in the uprising. That is now the only criterion by which Palestinians assess each other.

As far as the scale of the uprising is concerned and its duration, all this indicates that the scope of the uprising, the duration of the actions by the Palestinians, show that it cannot be suppressed and that there is only one way to silence the guns in the occupied Arab territories.

[Lavrentyev] I think we must note here that separate deals have not helped, either. Incidentally, the new leadership of Egypt has rejected these separate deals, although, as we recall, that country once supported the Camp David agreements at their very source.

[Grachev] Since you have touched on the Camp David agreements, I remember the atmosphere when those agreements were signed. I was in the United States at that time and I saw the signing ceremony which was broadcast on all U.S. television channels. President Carter declared from the platform then: At last, peace has been established in the Near East; it has been established now and forever.

[Levin] Already we can say how many years have passed since Camp David.

[Grachev] Exactly 10 years. It was signed in September 1978.

[Levin] And here is the result.

[Grachev] I can't mention any examples in these 10 years other than recurrent bloodshed and carnage in the Palestinian camps. Just blood, blood, and more blood.

[Levin] In other words, there is no peace there. And now we can say that the understanding is growing that solving the problem through force is impossible and unrealistic through separate deals, and that the means proposed by the Soviet Union a very long time ago—through a conference with the broad participation of all interested countries and peoples, the participation of the Arab people of Palestine and the participation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council—that the summoning of such a conference can indeed provide the key to a solution to the problem. And I think that a clearer outline of such a conference is already appearing. On this level, Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with Perez de Cuellar allows us the possibility of saying, in my view, that the Palestine Liberation Organization has not only turned toward this conference—it had not turned away from it, either—but is already conducting concrete talks on how it could and should be.

[Grachev] You're right, Viktor Nikolayevich. The only road to a just settlement of the Near East problem leads through an international, representative conference, with the participation of all interested parties. Washington's cunning political game has been leading toward eliminating the Soviet Union from participation in this conference, but now the situation has changed. The situation is such that such a conference does not seem possible without the participation of the Soviet Union.

[Lavrentyev] You said, Viktor Nikolayevich, that the United States' position with regard to regional conflicts is changing and yet there is one region where that position is not changing at all: Central America. Perhaps this is because the United States regards Central America as its backyard and the Caribbean Sea as its internal lake, but nonetheless, we must note that Washington is trying to suppress all the peacemaking initiatives which emanate from that region.

Here are some new examples for you. The Guatemala agreement on the attainment of firm and stable peace in Central America has been in operation for 1 year already—incidentally, the initiator was Oscar Arias, the president of Costa Rica, and he received the Nobel Peace Prize for it—and during this year the five Central American countries have been doing everything to establish peace. Yet we must note that there is no peace in the region. What is it all about? It is all about the fact that the United States is approaching the solution of Central American problems from a position of strength, literally.

Moreover, the main destabilizing feature there is the Nicaraguan contras. The Americans are using them in order to exert pressure on the Sandinist government. Even that government's movement toward democracy, as the United States understands it, does not suit them. It wants one thing: to remove that government from the political arena. And on this plane, naturally, neither does President Arias' approach suit them—the Nicaraguan Sandinist government even entered into direct negotiations with the contras, which was also a surprise for Washington. The White House, the Reagan administration, has done everything to wreck that agreement.

The period of the truce which was reached between the Sandinist government and the contras expires on 30 August. After the truce a proportion of them, a large proportion, were on the territory of Nicaragua. Now they are running from there to Honduras. There are already reports that they are being armed in Honduras and that attempts are being made to put them together into gangs and to throw them against the Nicaraguan people. This is a very alarming feature and it is happening despite the fact that the Sandinist government has virtually fulfilled almost all the articles of the Guatemala agreement.

Moreover, even the author of that plan himself, Oscar Arias, has admitted that the Nicaraguan Government has gone further than all the governments of the other Central American countries in fulfilling that agreement. I shall remind you that both the Guatemalan and Salvadoran Governments were supposed to establish truces and start dialogues with the insurgent movements. And yet, they are not in any hurry to do so. The Salvadoran and Guatemalan partisans are also in agreement with that dialogue, but no positive response has followed from the governments of those countries. And so, in spite of the fact that the Sandinist government has taken a great risk in agreeing to the dialogue and in agreeing to fulfill the Guatemala agreement in a short space of time, the United States is again setting off along the path of war and will try to remove the Sandinist government, with the help of the Nicaraguan contras.

[Grachev] You know, I should like to express one small reservation, Vyacheslav Georgiyevich, regarding what you have said. The position of the United States in Central America looks very clear, but I should not like to give our listeners the impression that it is as though the United States had two policies: one policy in the Eastern Hemisphere and another in the Western Hemisphere, with them prepared to take part in a political settlement in the Eastern Hemisphere, but not in the Western. There is one policy; the possibilities are different.

The United States enters into a political settlement and takes part in a political settlement where it assesses the situation realistically—where it judges there is no other possibility, where it is not going to achieve its aims. In Latin America, apparently, the United States is still continuing to put its trust in its undoubted political, economic, and military levers, with the help of which it wants to hold sway. For too long the United States has believed that this is a territory which it has almost been called on by the Most High to dominate. It is very hard for it to give this up. But all the same, processes that are not subject to any third force are going on there. I do not want to attach too much importance to the fact that martial law, which has existed for 15 years, has been abolished in Chile, but I think that it would be wrong to pass that fact by. It is also a reflection of some kind of serious, deep process.

[Lavrentyev] Now, there is already no doubt in anybody's mind that a process of democratization is in progress in Latin America, if we take the continent as a whole. This is unambiguous. Let us recall that in the last few years the military have had to leave the political arena in Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina. In Chile a referendum has been set for October in which the people will have to express their attitude to the official candidate for the post of president of Chile, who will rule the country for the next 8 years. There events are also approaching their denouement, many people believe.

[Levin] And do you think they will be able to remove the military from power?

[Grachev] Let us just recall the collapse of a whole series of military dictatorships in Latin America in recent times: Former facades which had appeared strong crashed down at once, overnight.

[Lavrentyev] But in Chile, all the same, the situation is more complex. The most important point is that there is no united approach to the referendum among the opposition. For example, the Christian Democrats and the bourgeois parties affiliated to them believe that in the referendum, most probably, if the people say no to the official candidate, then they will have the right and the opportunity to talk to sober-thinking military men. But

the communists and other left-wing parties, all the same, are advising against relying on the will of military men or the will of the military regime and are in favor of holding on to other forms of struggle, because it is not ruled out—and many people believe that this is how it will be—that, in the event of the people saying no, the regime will try to falsify the results of the election and slip their candidate into the post of president, regardless of the referendum result.

[Levin] So, this is the situation which is forming in many regions of the globe, complex and contradictory. But we should probably be acting wrongly if we did not pay attention to what has been happening on the European Continent during these very same days.

[Grachev] In our common home.

[Levin] Yes, in our common home. And here, it is possible and fully justified to say generally that the process of implementing the Soviet-U.S. treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles is in progress. To tell the truth, I have not fully balanced the accent, but I do have the feeling that the inspection of U.S. military bases in West European countries in which Pershing and cruise missiles are located is practically over. This week our inspectors were at Comiso, on the Italian island of Sicily, and were to make sure that the number of these weapons available corresponded to the number reported to us by the Americans when the treaty was signed.

Another process is under way in parallel to this one: The destruction of these missiles has already begun. We have started. In Saryozek, the first 4 operational-tactical missiles of the 926...[changes thought] I very much liked the expression of our PRAVDA colleagues: condemned missiles. No doubt this is the most just death sentence in the history of mankind, when it is missiles that are being sentenced to die. It is now known that on 2 September the Americans are to start removing their Pershing-2 missiles from FRG territory from the Heilbronn base. On 8 September, operations to destroy the Pershing missiles are due to start in the United States itself. This will be close to the town of Marshall, Texas. The Americans reported this to us in advance and in the document they recalled that we have the right to send observers to this act.

There is talk, and correct talk, in the world at the moment, to the effect that the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles has facilitated change in the political climate. If we unite this with the accord on Afghanistan, the effect on the international political climate will become all the more apparent. And, you know, we are already getting used to the fact that the process of implementing the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles is thus progressing normally and that this is good.

[Lavrentyev] But you know, Viktor Nikolayevich, a number of listeners ask in their letters: But what about verification? Aren't we really being a bit hasty in blowing up our missiles and disarming, while in the West perhaps they're cooking up something else?

[Levin] You know, when our comrades ask this question, I'm afraid we ourselves have fixed it in their consciousness over the course of many years of our previous work. We were always talking about the fact that the imperialists were plotting intrigues and intent on deceiving us and that therefore—so there would not be any deception—we wouldn't have their legal espionage here. Then when we said there were no problems of verification on our side, please come because we are as interested in the treaty being observed as they are, a certain shift of ideas occurred and some comrades here were completely out to sea. After all, you and I encounter such questions as: Why are we destroying more missiles than the Americans? Well, because we made more of them. Once we have made more of them and it's a matter of destroying these classes of missiles, we've got to destroy more.

The most important issue is that the level of security of the Soviet Union in no way suffers from this, but becomes greater. In our change of approach to the problem of verification, we have shown that speculating on this verification as the West did for many years—we know this for a fact, and even in the West they are now admitting that they speculated—is no longer possible, and verification is equal. At the same time, I wouldn't like to say that we should be gripped by total euphoria. No.

I have in front of me an AFP report—it too arrived in the last few days—which, referring to diplomatic sources at the headquarters of the North Atlantic alliance, says that by 1992 NATO must take response measures—and I am quoting the AFP telegram—in connection with the elimination of intermediate-range missiles provided for under the Soviet-U.S. treaty signed in Washington in December 1987. What do response measures mean? This treaty takes into account, to the same extent, the interests of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. It does not infringe upon security interests. Thus the words response measures mean a serving up—rehashed as it were—the same ideas of compensatory steps which NATO circles have already been talking about for a long time. It is now becoming clear that we, NATO is saying, need to set ourselves up with nuclear weapons with a range of up to several hundred kilometers. It is not a question of rebuilding those intermediate-range nuclear weapons being destroyed under the treaty, but of air force and other weapons. Still the similarity is very great. It is a blatant attempt to get around the treaty, and no doubt these plans should be followed attentively. I have no doubt that there will be serious conversations on this matter.

On the agenda at the moment are, to start with, precise and unswerving observance of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles and the start of full-scale

talks to limit and cut conventional arms in Europe. We have made proposals on this. The NATO members are in no hurry. However, when we talk about what is going on in the world, we have to take into account as well the strength of popular diplomacy. Popular diplomacy speaks from constructive stances—stances to stop the arms race and cut back weapons—and it will certainly be more difficult for the NATO members to implement plans that are dangerous to the cause of peace. The words of FRG Foreign Affairs Minister Genscher have stuck firmly in my mind, when in reply to those in NATO who are advocating evasion manuevers and the modernization of various types of nuclear weapons, he said outright that it is a matter of modernizing thinking, not weaponry.

[Grachev] The fairness of these words can only be supported and there are no doubts here. It is good that such voices are to be heard in the West, too, the voice of sober-thinking individuals.

[Levin] On this, comrades, we complete our program. Thank you for your attention. All the best.

'Expert' Defends Soviet, Pact Military Doctrine

LD2708161888 Moscow TASS in English 1506 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—TASS news analyst Valeriy Vavilov writes:

State Secretary of the FRG Defence Ministry Lothar Ruehl assumed an unsavoury task of accusing the Soviet Union of aggressive intentions of the offensive nature of its military doctrine. This accusation is contained in his article in the newspaper DIE WELT. He tried to oppose the Soviet military doctrine to NATO strategy in Europe, which he describes as "purely defensive" and which, he says, is unprotected against direct attacks of armies and the air forces of the Warsaw Treaty from short and shortest distances.

Entering into polemics with Soviet military expert General Batenin, Lothar Ruehl writes that the Soviet military leaders have no understanding of actual defensive structure and aims of NATO's joint defences in central Europe.

A representative of the West German military department is surely well informed about the Soviet military doctrine and separate concepts of the Soviet military strategy. And he ascribes an aggressive offensive nature to it not for the reason that he fails to understand its real essence. He does so in order to try to hamper the nascent process of the relaxation of tension.

"It is hardly worth arguing with Lothar Ruehl", says military expert of the CPSU Central Committee, Major-General Geliy Batenin. "His 'research' is marked by prejudice. He justifies in advance NATO's stand and sharply criticises the alleged aggressiveness of the armed forces of the Warsaw Treaty Organization".

According to the Soviet general's estimate the state of the armed forces of the military alliances, their deployment and strategic plans for deployment have long since surpassed the rational norms suiting defensive purposes and are not in keeping with conditions of peacetime. There exist imbalances and asymmetries. And the Soviet Union is prepared to eliminate them. This has been declared clearly in the statement of the Warsaw Treaty countries on talks on the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe and in the directives of the Soviet party leadership.

The Soviet Union's proposals for the exchange of data on armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe, for reaching an agreement that would lead to the elimination of the existing asymmetries and imbalances, for the widening of confidence- and security-building measures, for the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons from Europe, including dual-capable components, are aimed at the stabilization of the situation in Europe, at the removal of tension.

And as regards the question of military doctrines, the Soviet Union proposed to NATO representatives to meet at a negotiating table to compare the military doctrines of both alliances with taking into account their military-technical aspects in order to impart strictly defensive character to them.

Lothar Ruehl can also be reminded of other concrete proposals of the Soviet Union: for a considerable reduction of the armed forces and armaments in Europe from the Atlantics to the Urals, for a simultaneous disbandment of the North Atlantic Treaty and the Warsaw Treaty Organization and, as an initial step, the elimination of their military organizations.

Let us compare all this with just one element of the NATO doctrine: the concept of the strike at the second tier, the concept which, incidentally, is already tested during NATO exercises. How can one view this concept as defensive if it envisages combat operations in territories of others, the dealing of a strike deep into the rear, dislodging the opposing group entirely?

The West German military expert should apparently give up a prejudiced approach to the Soviet initiatives. Then it would be clear to him that they serve not only the interests of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty countries but also the interests of the peoples of all the European countries, promote the consolidation of peace and cooperation in the common European home.

Gorbachev Sends Message to Pugwash Conference

LD2908093888 Moscow TASS in English 0818 29 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 29 TASS—"Scientific thinking is powerful force. Mankind now needs it to survive," says a message of greetings sent by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the participants in and guests of the Pugwash conference.

"More than thirty years separate us from the days when scientists, inspired by the famous Russel-Einstein manifesto, gathered in the small Canadian village and stated that modern weapons of mass destruction posed a direct threat to the existence of civilisation," the message says.

"The ideas formulated by the founders of your movement were, in essence, the herald of the new thinking. The participants in the movement set an example of responsibility and highly moral approach to the destiny of history and progress."

"At the end of the twentieth century mankind is beginning to realise for the first time that it is a single entity, to see the indissolubility of interrelationship between man, society and nature, and to evaluate the consequences of its production activity and its political choices. In order to win the struggle against global-scale dangers, it is necessary that universal approach prevail over the egoism of private persons and special interests of some or other social sections, individual countries and alliances of states."

"The initiative of science people and their contact with politics are particularly essential now," the message goes on. "What is needed is bold views and a profound impartial analysis to single out of the entire diversity of ideological and cultural values such priorities which will enable mankind by concentrating its efforts on them to surmount the critical pass in its advance."

Adamishin Lauds Conference on African Refugees

LD2508190888 Moscow TASS in English 1647 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Oslo August 25 TASS—TASS correspondent Stanislav Tikhomirov reports:

A conference on the problem of refugees in southern Africa was conceived as an extraordinary international function. It is called upon to draw the attention of the public opinion again to the situation in that area in a broader aspect through the analysis of a concrete problem of refugees and displaced persons. The TASS correspondent was told this by head of the Soviet delegation to the conference Anatoliy Adamishin, USSR deputy foreign minister.

He expressed the opinion that the sponsors of the forum had achieved the goal set. The prestige of the conference was enhanced by the participation in it of a number of important politicians, statesmen and public figures from many countries and of representatives of numerous international organizations. They include United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar who, though very busy, found time to visit Oslo on the forum's opening day, the head of the Zimbabwean Government, chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement Robert Mugabe, President of the Republic of Mali, Chairman of the Organization of African Unity Moussa Traore.

The conference adopted documents, among them the action programme envisaging certain measures of organizational nature along the United Nations lines to draw more attention to the vital problems of the south African region, to ensure a broader participation of the international public in their solution. The presence of the Soviet delegation at the conference, the Soviet Union's policy with regard to southern Africa were met with understanding and support of the participants in the conference, Anatoliy Adamishin said.

United States & Canada

President Takes Credit for 'Important Changes'

LD2708215688 Moscow TASS in English 2116 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Washington August 28 TASS—In his regular Saturday radio address U.S. President Ronald Reagan tried to analyze positive trends that took shape recently in the international arena.

He enumerated a number of hotbeds of tension in the world where a peaceful settlement process is actively gaining momentum, specifically, the Persian Gulf area, Afghanistan, southern Africa and Kampuchea.

President Reagan pointed out as well that more constructive relations were being established between the U.S. and the USSR which was promoted by the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the improvement of the human rights situation and the concluding of the INF Treaty, under which a whole class of Soviet and American nuclear missiles is being eliminated.

However, the President hurried to state that the credit for all those important changes in the international arena goes to his administration and, specifically, to the policy of peace from the position of strength pursued by him.

In his opinion, when the U.S. was not consistent enough in the demonstration of its might, this was detrimental to the cause of peace. He cited as an example the "tragic" situation in Nicaragua. The President accused the Government of Nicaragua of breaking commitments on the democratization of the country and the termination of the war, linking it with the fact that U.S. Congress had not allocated resources for military assistance to the contras for about two years. The President actually urged Congress to adopt a draft law on the resumption of the assistance to the armed opposition forces of Nicaragua and spoke out in favour of the continuation of the war in that Central American country.

Zorin Comments on Republican Support for SDI

LD2808042588 Moscow in English to North America 2200 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Next the weekend commentary "Moscow Viewpoint" by our political observer Valentin Zorin. Here is what he writes:

During the current election campaign in the United States, the Republican Party leaders, above all the presidential candidate George Bush, talk much about their allegiance to the SDI program. Their stand is also reflected in the platform of the Republican Party. In the meantime, as many eminent American physicists believe, including Nobel Prize winners, the SDI program is all wrong from the scientific standpoint. They are convinced that to deploy the SDI, not on paper but in reality, there must be a new breakthrough in science. Three or four very big discoveries have to be made, equal in their importance to the discovery of the fission of the atomic nucleus, but, as they believe, the present level of scientific knowledge and technology is insufficient to have the SDI realized.

Apart from that, according to recently published extracts from a secret document of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, it is clear that the Pentagon, too, admits it is impossible to have a system that could protect the entire territory of the United States from a nuclear strike. For this reason the document suggests narrowing down the SDI to the protection of the missile bases and other essential military installations. In other words, the SDI is rejected in its main concept of allegedly being a reliable umbrella for the whole of America and its residents.

Finally, doubts are expressed in the United States more and more frequently about the possible appropriations for the costly SDI program. Even according to a very modest estimate the system requires an investment of more than $2 trillion. Where can the money come from with the huge federal debt and the federal budget deficit? However, the Republicans are stubbornly insisting on the SDI, defying common sense and political realism. Some of them say that this is due to the pressure from the right wing, but that's just half of the answer, I believe. The other half, to my mind, lies in the fact whom precisely the rightists represent as they held the dominant position at the Republican Convention in New Orleans.

I recall a report in the WALL STREET JOURNAL about those who get the SDI orders, which are known to be highly profitable for the corporations. The orders have gone to Rockwell International, Lockheed, Grumman, General Dynamics, McDonnell Douglas, and other big companies. It is these Pentagon subcontractors who have the decisive influence on the SDI supporters and it is apparently for this reason that common sense was defied on this issue at the Republican Convention.

China

Rogachev Arrives in Beijing for 'Working Meeting'

LD2708125988 Moscow TASS in English 1232 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Beijing August 27 TASS—Igor Rogachev, USSR deputy foreign minister, has arrived here today for the scheduled Soviet-Chinese working meeting. In the airport of the capital he was welcomed by PRC deputy foreign minister.

Igor Rogachev made a short statement for Chinese and foreign newsmen. Progress has started in the effort to settle the Kampuchean issue, he said. The Soviet Union and China are no direct participants in the Kampuchean settlement. Yet both countries have a stake in it. In these terms the important significance was noted of the recent "informal meeting" in Bogor and the talks in Paris

between Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and Prince Norodom Sihanouk. For a number of years the Soviet Union has maintained permanent contacts with Vietnam, the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the ASEAN member-countries on that issue.

Answering the questions of correspondents, Igor Rogachev said that the Soviet Union and China can contribute towards a Kampuchean settlement.

Further on Arrival

OW2808090588 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0300 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev arrived in Beijing on Saturday [27 August] for six Soviet-Chinese working meetings.

Upon arrival, he made a short statement for Chinese and foreign newsmen. He stressed: Progress has begun in the settlement of the Cambodian issue. While both the USSR and China are not direct participants in the settlement of this issue, both countries hope that it can be settled. In view of this, both sides have noted the great significance of the recent informal meeting in Bogor and the talks in France between Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and Semdech Sihanouk. For years the USSR has maintained constant contacts with Vietnam, the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and ASEAN members on this issue.

Answering questions from the press, Rogachev said that the USSR and China can contribute to the settlement of the Cambodian issue.

PRC Friendship Official Recalls Visit

LD2608201488 Moscow TASS in English 1954 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Beijing August 26 TASS—China and the Soviet Union are two neighbouring states whose peoples are bound by the ties of traditional friendship of long standing, Wu Xiuquan, chairman of the Chinese-Soviet Friendship Society, has written in the newspaper RENMIN RIBAO.

In an article dealing with his trip to the Soviet Union as member of a delegation of the Chinese-Soviet Friendship Society he pointed out that "the visit to the country of the Great October Revolution made a profound impression on members of the Chinese delegation." He recalled that the Chinese people had welcomed wholeheartedly the Great October Socialist Revolution. The USSR rendered great assistance to China in a period difficult for the Chinese revolution. Soviet troops made a tremendous contribution to the liberation of north-eastern China from Japanese militarists.

The Soviet Union has made a perceptible headway by today. Wu Xiuquan wrote that they had seen by themselves that the social climate of Soviet society had become much more animated, that they wished Soviet people success in overcoming all the difficulties and obstacles on the way of perestroyka.

He expressed hope of the establishment of stable relations of friendship and good neighbourliness between the peoples of China and the Soviet Union, which would meet the basic interests of the two countries and would promote the consolidation of peace and stability in Asia and throughout the world.

PRC, Japanese Leaders Hold Talks on Ties

LD2608215488 Moscow TASS in English 1600 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Beijing August 26 TASS—By TASS correspondent Vladimir Kashirov:

The development of strong and stable relations of friendship and goodneighbourliness is an important component part of the independent foreign policy of peace pursued by China, said Li Peng, premier of the Chinese State Council, at talks with Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita staying here on a visit.

On his part, the Japanese leader noted that the development of Japanese-Chinese friendship was an important direction of Japan's foreign policy. He said that in the course of six years, starting with 1990, the Japanese Government would extend China new loans to the total sum of 810 billion yens.

Hailing financial aid and Japanese investments in China, Li Peng said that the Chinese Government exerted now greater efforts to improve further investment conditions in the country.

Northeast Asia

Japanese Military Spending Increase Assessed

LD2608200688 Moscow TASS in English 1803 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—TASS news analyst Askold Biryukov writes:

Only three days passed since the approval by the cabinet of the ministers of Japan of the "White Book on Defense Matters", but the conceptual provisions of this document have already found practical expression in the draft requests for defence outlays prepared by Japan's Defense Agency for the new 1989 financial year. The requests of the defense department clearly indicate that Japan's ruling circles intend to continue to increase military spending and the might of their armed forces, heedless of the fact that the peoples of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, including the Japanese people itself, are concerned by this development.

And in fact, in the 1989 financial year appropriations for military purposes will be up 6.1 percent over the current year, reaching 3,927.3 billion yens. The main emphasis in military preparations, as is clear from the draft requests of the Defense Agency, is to be on qualitative and quantitative improvement of the armaments of the "Self-Defense Force", including equipping them with "surface-to-ship" and "surface-to-air" guided missiles, anti-submarine mines, new generation fighter bombers, etc.

As the newspaper "NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUM" says, one feature of the new requests of the Defense Agency is that they provide for the adoption of concrete measures on the so-called "division of responsibility" between Japan and the USA in "ensuring security" in the Asia-Pacific region. What is at issue here is not only a steep (by 16.1 percent) increase in the spending on the maintenance of the American Armed Forces, the deployment of their weaponry and ammunition in Japan, but also the division of responsibilities between the partners in the military alliance within the framework of the U.S. strategy in the APR [Asia-Pacific Region].

Japan's prime minister said last spring that Japan allegedly needs to set in place a military potential corresponding to its economic might. But such an approach causes alarm in the APR countries, especially those who have experienced first-hand the consequences of the unbridled buildup of the Japanese military might on the eve of and during the Second World War. Yusuf Vanandi, director of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta, writing in the July issue of the "Far Eastern Economic Review", says that China, South Korea, ASEAN countries, Australia and New Zealand believe that sufficient efforts have already been made to enhance the potential of the Self-Defense Force and to increase the military budget.... Further increases would cause suspicions regarding Japan's intentions. Eighty percent of the Japanese are opposed to the growth in military spending in which Japan now ranks third in world. This is confirmed by the findings of a public opinion poll conducted by the office of the prime minister this year.

Both the contents of the "White Book" and the demands of the Defense Agency for military outlays for the 1989 financial year indicate only that Tokyo stubbornly ignores the positive changes now at work on the international plane, which will hardly enhance Japan's authority in the world.

Soviet-Japanese Governors' Conference Reported

Held in Moscow

OW2908021088 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] The 10th Soviet-Japanese Governors' Conference was held in Moscow for 2 days from 25 to 26 August. The conference was attended by chairmen of local soviet executive committees and governors from Japan. The following is a report on the conference:

Participants in the conference pointed out that friendly exchanges among governments and peoples in various countries, irrespective of differences in their social, economic, and political systems, provide a good foundation to carry out cooperation in promoting mutual interests. They particulary indicated that the development of relations between the Soviet Union and Japan will play a major role in creating a climate for promoting trust and cooperation not only in Asia and the Pacific region but also in the whole world.

The Japanese delegation to the conference was composed of governors in Japan and led by Tokyo Municipality Mayor Suzuki who is also chairman of the Association of National Prefectural Governors. Attending from the Soviet side were leaders of local autonomous governments in Moscow, Leningrad, the Far East, Ukraine, Belorussia, and other areas in the Soviet Union. The Soviet-Japanese Governors' Conference had been held for a period of time before it was suspended in 1979. It had been held often in cities in the Soviet Union and Japan. The holding of the conference this time after a long lapse represents the revival of valuable exchanges among the leaders of local autonomous governments in the Soviet Union and Japan. On the occasion of holding the conference, the RSFSR Council of Ministers sent a message to the participants in the conference. At the conference, Moscow Oblast Soviet Executive Committee Chairman Cherepanov, who led the Soviet delegation, said that he would like to draw the Japanese participants' attention to a plan to develop Siberia and the Far East which are located in close proximity to Japan. Other Soviet participants said that there was a good prospect for promoting cooperation in the fields of science and technology. They also said that the people in the two countries had keen interests in each other's country, and this represents the possibility of promoting cultural exchanges between the two countries. They also stated that the two neighboring countries should seek practical interests by strengthening friendship and promoting cooperation. Some participants expressed their view that although Soviet socialist republics, local governments, major enterprises and facilities were granted power to do business in foreign markets, economic cooperation has not sufficiently utilized and efforts should be made to seek new chances for its utilization.

The conference was also attended by RSFSR Foreign Minister Vinogradov and a former Japanese ambassador to the Soviet Union.

The Japanese delegation met with Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers First Deputy Chairman Kamentsev on 26 August. They are scheduled to meet with RSFSR Council of Ministers Chairman Vorotnikov on 27 August.

Cherepanov Opens Meeting

PM2908115188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Soviet-Japanese Meeting"]

[Text] Friendly contacts between the peoples of different countries and their governments and local authorities create a good basis for organizing mutually beneficial cooperation irrespective of the differences in states' socioeconomic and political makeups. But the development of ties between the USSR and Japan goes beyond the framework of the two countries' interests—it promotes the formation of a climate of trust and cooperation in the entire immense Asia-Pacific region and in the world as a whole.

This idea was a kind of starting point for the work at the 10th meeting of USSR krayispolkom and oblispolkom chairmen and Japanese governors that opened in Moscow 25 August. Governors from the most important prefectures headed by S. Suzuki, chairman of the National Council of Japanese Governors and governor of Tokyo Prefecture, arrived to take part in it. Once traditional, these meetings were broken off in 1979, and the current forum resumes the useful contacts between the leaders of the two countries' local organs.

The greetings message from the RSFSR Council of Ministers to the meeting participants was read out at the opening ceremony.

"We believe that good neighbors should be friends, cooperate, and derive practical benefit from this," I.M. Cherepanov, chairman of Moscow Oblispolkom and head of the Soviet delegation, said in opening the business part of the meeting. "Fruitful contacts that enrich interstate ties can develop at the prefecture, kray, and oblast level. Union republics, krays, oblasts, large production associations, and individual enterprises in our country are now being given the right to enter the foreign market. This opens up extensive opportunities for exercising new and as yet little-used forms of economic cooperation."

RSFSR Foreign Minister V.M. Vinogradov and T. Muto, Japanese ambassador to the USSR, took part in day one of the meeting.

Kamentsev Receives Delegation

LD2608230788 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1843 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 26 Aug (TASS)—Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, today received a delegation of the Japanese national governors' association led by its chairman, Shunichi Suzuki.

They discussed questions of Soviet-Japanese economic cooperation, including its possible development between krays and oblasts of the Soviet Union and prefectures of Japan.

Group Talks With Vorotnikov

LD2808170988 Moscow TASS in English 1418 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—An interested exchange of views on a number of problems connected with the present-day international situation, the ensurance of security in the Asia-Pacific region and bilateral Soviet-Japanese relations took place today during a meeting of Vitaliy Vorotnikov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, and a delegation of the National Council of Governors of Japan. The delegation led by Shunichi Suzuki, governor of the Tokyo Prefecture, took part in the work of the 10th meeting of chairman of the Executive Committees of Soviets of People's Deputies of Regions and Districts of the USSR and Japanese governors.

In the course of a detailed conversation held in a benevolent atmosphere the attention of the guests was drawn to profound transformations taking place in all the spheres of the life of Soviet society, including the improvement of an economic mechanism, the reform of a political system, large-scale development of democracy and glasnost, the expansion of the rights of local government bodies and other aspects of perestroyka aimed at raising the wellbeing and the living standards of Soviet people. It was pointed out that at present the relations of the USSR with Japan did not measure up to its level of relations with other countries. On its part, the USSR is ready to develop mutually advantageous cooperation with Japan and believes that both countries have reserves for that.

Participants in the conversation discussed the results of the meeting of Soviet and Japanese local government bodies. They pointed out the usefulness of such contacts and went on record in favour of their continuation in the future. It was emphasized that in conditions of a radical economic reform in the USSR direct ties between separate regions of the USSR and Japan acquired special importance.

Communique Issued

OW2708044288 Tokyo KYODO in English 0257 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, Aug 27 KYODO—Japanese and Soviet governors ended a two-day meeting here Friday with a communique saying regional exchanges will be promoted between the two countries.

The 10th meeting decided to hold the next conference in Tokyo in 1990.

The communique said both sides agreed that development of friendly relations at the local government level would contribute to favorable relations between Japan and the Soviet Union.

The meeting on the Japanese side was attended by the governors of Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kyoto, Yamaguchi and Okinawa and the vice governors of Hokkaido, Mie, Osaka and Fukuoka.

Tokyo Gov Shunichi Suzuki told reporters that the Japanese governors proposed to their Soviet counterparts that they jointly appeal to both the Japanese and Soviet Governments on Japanese territorial claims to the Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido, northern Japan.

However, the Soviet side made no reply to the proposal on the grounds that no territorial dispute exists between the two countries, Suzuki said.

The Japanese governors will return home Sunday.

Japanese Depart for Home

LD2808035588 Moscow TASS in English 1921 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—A delegation of the National Council of Governors of Japan led by Shunichi Suzuki, chairman of the council, governor of the Tokyo Prefecture, left the USSR today. The delegation had attended the 10th meeting of chairmen of executive committees of the soviets of people's deputies of regions and districts of the USSR and of the governors of Japan.

DPRK-ROK Talks End; To Resume 13 Oct

LD2608140788 Moscow TASS in English 1356 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Panmunjom August 26 TASS—The fourth meeting in the framework of preliminary talks for the preparation for an interparliamentary contacts of the North and South of Korea, held here today, has not achieved any results.

Representatives of the North and the South agreed to hold the fifth meeting on October 13, 1988. At the same time the head of the DPRK delegation, deputy of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK Chon Kum-chol said at a press- conference that if the South Korean side manifests the striving to bring serious correctives into its stand, the North will be prepared to hold a regular meeting earlier.

Beating of Journalist Causes Scandal in ROK

LD2808215088 Moscow TASS in English 2012 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Tokyo August 28 TASS—A general has been arrested in South Korea who ordered the beating of a journalist criticizing the role of the Army in South Korean society. O Hong-kun, editor of the newspaper CHUNGANG ECONOMIC DAILY, wrote in his article that the Armed Forces were a source of many problems facing the country. The journalist who was beaten up is in hospital now.

The arrested general, head of the Army Intelligence Department, admitted that he had ordered his people to "punish" the journalist. A brigade general accused of the attempt to hide the crime that had been a common occurence during the rule of the dictator Chon Tu-hwan was also interrogated.

According to reports from Seoul, the new scandal threatens to acquire a political character. Hearings were held in Parliament on the beating of the journalist in the course of which Defense Minister O Cha-pok assured the deputies that all those involved in the incident would be severely punished and that he intended to take upon himself full responsibility for the incident after the end of the investigation.

The newspaper CHOSON ILBO wrote today that president No Tae-u planned to retire O Cha-pok for the purpose of keeping down the political motives reminiscent of the former dictatorial order when the authorities used to fully rely on the Armed Forces in suppressing dissent. Those practices were denounced by the people.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Cambodia's Chea Sim Meets With Demichev

LD2608192288 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 26 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A meeting took place in the Kremlin today between Comrade Demichev and Chea Sim, member of the Politburo of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly of the PRK. He has been in the Soviet Union on a working visit as a special envoy of Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee, and of the party's Central Committee Politburo.

In the course of the conversation, which passed in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and comradeship, Comrade Demichev emphasized that for Soviet people restructuring is part of the process of new political thinking asserting itself in international affairs.

Particular attention was paid to the situation around Cambodia. Chea Sim informed Demichev on the activities of the KPRP and the working people of the Republic on implementing the national reconciliation policy and resolving the complex problems facing the country.

He drew attention to the outcome of the informal meeting in Indonesia, during the course of which the quadripartite talks between Hun Sen, chairman of the

PRK Council of Ministers, and the leaders of opposition Khmer groupings with the participation, at the second stage, of the representatives of countries of Southeast Asia, were held for the first time.

The sides also expressed their content with the present level of cooperation between the USSR and the PRK in various fields and noted the existence of a good potential for its further expansion.

Further on Talks

BK2708122188 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1134 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 27—Chea Sim, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland, and special envoy of President Heng Samrin, arrived in the Soviet Union on August 26 for an official friendship visit.

Later on the same day, Chairman Chea Sim held talks with Petr Demichev, candidate Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and first vice president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The two sides focused on the situation around Kampuchea.

Chea Sim briefed his host on the efforts of the Kampuchean Government and people in the implementation of the PRK policy of national reconciliation and their search for a political solution to the Kampuchean conflict. He highlighted results of the recent Jakarta Informal Meeting (JIM) which, he said, were an important step toward the settlement of the Kampuchean issue.

The two sides held that all efforts including the Jakarta Informal Meeting aimed a seeking a political solution to the Kampuchean conflict are praise-worthy as they meet the Kampuchean people's earnest desire for building a peaceful, independent, neutral and nonaligned Kampuchea, thus contributing to making Southeast Asia a region of peace, stability and cooperation.

The two sides highly valued peace plans put forth by the PRK and Lao delegations and Vietnam's good-will attitude considering them positive contributions to JIM's success.

Petr Demichev reaffirmed that his country would do all in its power to contribute to the political settlement of the Kampuchean problem.

"The Soviet Union is prepared to join other countries concerned to accelerate the search for an equitable peaceful solution to the Kampuchean conflict," the Soviet official stressed.

Razumovskiy Receives KPRP Delegation

LD2808043088 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1320 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 27 Aug (TASS)—In accordance with the cooperation between the CPSU and the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP], a delegation of the General Department of the Central Committee of the KPRP led by Sar Kheng, candidate member of the Politburo, secretary of the central committee, and chief of the general department of the party's central committee, was in the Soviet Union from 17 to 22 August.

The Kampuchean comrades acquainted themselves with the experience of the organization of work of the CPSU under conditions of restructuring. Conversations were held in the General Department, the Organizational Party Works Department, and the Department and Administration of Affairs of the CPSU Central Committee, as well as at the Moscow obkom. The delegation visited the Tadzhik SSR and the Podolsk Rayon of Moscow Oblast, where it met the leadership of party organizations and visited a number of industrial and agricultural enterprises.

On 26 August, the delegation of the KPRP was received by Georgiy Razumovskiy, candidate member of the Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. During the conversation, the delegation was informed about the course of the implementation of the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference and the July (1988) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. Mutual satisfaction was expressed with the steady development and deepening of friendly ties between the CPSU and the KPRP. An exchange of views was held on the further development of relations between the two parties and countries.

Delegation Leaves

BK2908122988 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1102 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 29—A delegation of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea led by Sar Kheng, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the PRPK Central Committee left the Soviet Union last Saturday after a 10-day friendship visit.

While there, the Kampuchean delegation studied the organizational work of the CPSU in the process of restructuring. It had meetings with Soviet party officials and visited many production and cultural establishments in Moscow and the Tadzhik Soviet Socialist Republic.

On August 26, it was received by G. Razumovskiy, candidate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The two sides noted

with satisfaction the constant development of the solidarity, friendship and cooperation between the parties, states and peoples of Kampuchea and the Soviet Union. They discussed measures to further strengthen these friendly ties.

Commentary on Political Settlement for Cambodia

OW2808192388 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Asia-Pacific Region 1300 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Soviet-Chinese vice foreign ministerial working meeting on the Cambodian issue will soon take place in Beijing. The world public positively assesses the holding of this meeting and hopes that it can contribute to the political settlement of the Cambodia issue.

The complex Cambodia issue is indeed being resolved step by step, and the recent meeting in Bogor, Indonesia, played a significant role in this regard. Representatives of the Cambodian opposition factions and Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Cambodia, met there for the first time. It should be pointed out that the reason the meeting could be held at all was because all the relevant parties were willing to eliminate the source of tension in Indochina. First of all, Vietnam, Laos, and ASEAN countries have displayed a realistic attitude toward the issue and have made great efforts to settle this complex issue with [word indistinct] measures. The actual results achieved at the Bogor meeting are highly promising. An agreement was reached on the principles for the settlement of the Cambodia issue; and a working group was formed to study the situation so that suggestions can be made for a political settlement of the issue.

The Bogor meeting stressed that the two interrelated keys of the Cambodian issue are: During the process of achieving a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia issue, Vietnam should withdraw its troops from Cambodia; and the Pol Pot clique's genocidal policy and acts shall not be allowed to recur. Moreover, there shall be no outside interference.

Vietnam has already declared that it would withdraw all its volunteers from Cambodia by 1990, including the withdrawal of 50,000 by the end of this year. Thus, the remaining issue is: Pol Pot's genocidal policy and acts shall not be permitted to recur.

During the Bogor meeting, an agreement was also reached that dialogue would continue between Hun Sen and Samdech Sihanouk. The next meeting between them has been scheduled to take place in November. According to Western news agencies, Samdech Sihanouk has appealed to Chinese leaders, hoping that China would change its stand toward Pol Pot elements and stop giving them military and material support.

Many [U.S.] congressmen have the same attitude. For example, Atkins, a Democratic Party congressman, has stressed that he was infuriated by the White House's shameless use of the Khmer Rouge to attack the Vietnamese. To settle the Cambodian issue, the Reagan administration has also declared that, to prevent the Khmer Rouge from resuming power, it will take such measures as stopping the supply of weapons to them or secretly stockpiling weapons for them. In a recent meeting with Samdech Sihanouk, Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Uno said that Japan wanted to make sure that the Khmer Rouge's brutal system will not reappear. Many similar views can be cited. Similar requests have been made by Paris, Stockholm, Jakarta, London, Ankara, and Cairo.

Today, many people in the world—especially the Cambodian people—have one worry: Who can guarantee that the Pol Pot elements will not commit bloody crimes in Cambodia again after the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops? The Cambodian people already paid an extremely dear price during the years under Pol Pot's rule. Of Cambodia's 8 million people, 3 million were eliminated by the Pol Pot elements. Who wants to see a recurrence of such a nightmare?

It is true that the armed forces of the People's Republic of Cambodia have been well trained in recent years and are able to carry out their missions independently, but this cannot minimize the danger of the Khmer Rouge's new bloodthirstiness. This is why there must be a guarantee against the recurrence of genocidal policy and acts. All governments, including the Soviet and Chinese Governments, should see to it that such a situation will not recur, and for this reason they should demonstrate political fortitude and realistic approach.

The Soviet Union maintains that the settlement of the Cambodian issue must consider the desire of mankind as a whole and proceed from the interests of all parties that partake in this (?endeavor).

Burma Claims BBC, Western Media 'Interference'

BK2808100788 Moscow in Burmese to Burma 1430 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Station observer commentary]

[Text] The mass movement in Burma has assumed a new character as evident from the news that has been coming out of Rangoon—the convening of the extraordinary congress of the Burma Socialist Program Party on 12 September as announced on radio by Dr Maung Maung, party chairman and president; the revoking of military administration; the withdrawal of troops from the capital, Rangoon; and the release from detention of dissidents calling for changes, including the famous political figure, Brigadier General Aung Gyi. Although demonstrations continue, they are not heading for a confrontation on the streets. People who are taking part in these demonstrations are proposing changes from the ground

up in Burmese society. The proposals are varied and complex and deal directly with a broad range of issues. For instance, to improve the peoples' standard of living, to overcome economic hardships, to choose a multiparty system, and to restore democracy. It is also noteworthy to remember that the extraordinary party congress scheduled on 12 September also aims at discussing the holding of a national referendum on the multiparty system.

In the meanwhile, a public opinion soliciting commission was formed to invite opinions from the people. It is hoped that the commission will be able to compile a report that would answer the demands of the demonstrating masses. This could become a model of what Dr Maung Maung had envisaged in his speech—a good example of what cooperation and unity can do.

Burma is passing through difficult times when the people are pointing to the shortcomings of the state and the causes of the errors committed by the previous leaders. It is also a time when an urgent search is under way to find a solution to the present situation which can no longer fulfill the needs of the Burmese people. No one but the Burmese people themselves can set up a system that takes into account the traditions and historical experience of the Burmese people as well as be in the interest of Burma.

The reason this issue is being raised here is because some Western media are going out of their way to dictate to the Burmese people what to do in these difficult times. And they are doing this in a very subtle way. For instance, the BBC, broadcasting in its Burmese language programs, skillfully mixes rumors with factual accounts, which, as the journalist circles in Rangoon have pointed out, are tantamount to interference. While claiming to present objective views, the BBC tries to sow division and propagates ideas that Western democracy and capitalism are superior.

It is not without reason that the KYEMON daily [of Rangoon] on 9 August warned listeners not to fall for the traps set by the Western broadcasting media. Our people, it says, should draw lessons from the fact that they were slaves of colonialism for many years, and that they should not lower their guard today if they do not want to go back to that time.

Today, it appears that the British masters are once again thinking of those times. The way the BBC and the other Western mass media have been behaving against a country which is today facing difficult and complex times, is anything but friendly. Is it proper for them to impose their will on a people with regard to social and democratic systems?

Presently, the Burmese people are exhibiting the right attributes of a people—dynamism and determination to decide the future of their own country through the free expression of opinions and demands.

SRV's Nguyen Van Linh Departs

LD2708162288 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1554 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 27 Aug (TASS)—Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Central Committee to the Communist Party of Vietnam, who has been in the USSR on vacation at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, today left the Soviet Union.

Gusev, CPV Chemical Industry Official Confer

PM2908113188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Developing Cooperation"]

[Text] On 25 August a meeting took place between V.K. Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Soviet side of the Soviet-Vietnamese intergovernmental commission for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, and Le Van Zi, member of the CPV Central Committee and chief of the SRV Council of Ministers Main Administration for the Chemical Industry, during which they discussed questions of bilateral cooperation in the sphere of the chemical industry.

Nguyen Manh Kam, SRV ambassador to the USSR, took part in the conversation.

Near East & South Asia

Syria To Receive First Exported Sukhoi-24's

NC2908070488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Aug (MENA)—The Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD newspaper reports today that the Soviet Union has agreed to supply Syria with the most modern of its assault fighter planes, the "Sukhoi-24." This is the first time the Soviet Union will export this type of aircraft to any country.

Citing what it describes as reliable military sources, the paper reports that the "Sukhoi-24" will considerably boost the Syrian Air Force's ability to launch long-range assault operations.

According to the same sources, Syria has recently received the second batch of "MiG-29's," adding that the first Syrian Air Force squadron to use these jet fighters will be operational by the end of this year.

Najibullah Addresses Afghan National Council

LD2808034088 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 27 TASS—A session of the National Council (parliament) of Afghanistan opened here today. Addressing deputies of the supreme legislative body, President Najibullah of Afghanistan pointed

out that at present the main task facing the leadership of the country was to stop bloodshed and the fratricidal war, to ensure accord and unity of all the political forces of the country, to actively put into practice the national reconciliation policy which fully meets the national interests of the Afghan people.

Dwelling on the process of the implementation of the Geneva accords, Najibullah pointed out that Afghanistan and the Soviet Union strictly fulfilled all their commitments.

Touching upon the coming Soviet-Afghan space flight, the Afghan leader said that it would be a feature event in the political, economic and social life of the country.

PRAVDA Publishes Speech

PM2908115588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

["Speech by Najibullah"—TASS report]

[Text] "The principal task before the country today is to expedite the process of returning peace to the Afghan land," said President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan as he addressed the second session of the Republic's National Council which opened here Saturday.

"As long as blood is shed, factories and plants cannot function normally. As long as explosions roar, trade cannot develop. As long as the war continues, people live in poverty and suffering. Therefore, no aim is more important today for the country's leadership than that of implementing the national reconciliation policy, halting bloodshed, and ensuring the unity of all political forces in Afghanistan and outside it."

"Vast work has been accomplished to resolve these strategic tasks in the period since the conclusion of the first session of parliament," Najibullah noted. "The honest fulfillment by Afghanistan and the USSR of their obligations under the Geneva agreements exerts an enormous positive influence on the situation and is received with satisfaction by the world community".

"The first stage of the Soviet troop withdrawal was completed on 15 August. Fifty percent of the Soviet forces here left the country together with their military hardware. The remaining Soviet units and subunits are stationed along the two major transport routes—Kabul-Khayraton and Herat-Darreh-ye Khoshk. They will also pull out according to the timetable."

"The opposition made a decision to thwart the settlement process and use force to turn the development of events in its favor," the president emphasized. "'Strategists' from the 'Alliance of the Seven' evaluated the withdrawal of Soviet troops as a factor favoring their designs. The connivance with their activity on the part of Pakistan and the United States has had an adverse impact on the situation. Large amounts of weapons and ammunition began flowing to Afghanistan. The penetration of groups of extremists and foreign advisers from the demilitarized border areas, which were deserted by Afghan units to help the return of refugees, has intensified." [This and subsequent variations are from a report carried by Moscow TASS in English at 1349 GMT on 28 August, which also notes the speech by Najibullah. At this point the TASS report adds the following: "Over the last weeks, the opposition forces tried to check the strength of state power and the combat capability of our Armed Forces. However, the opposition plans to capture some of the provinces and proclaim an 'interim government' there have been a setback. [sentence as received] The old thesis 'on the inability of the Kabul regime to hold on to power following the withdrawal of Soviet troops' has not worked either. The attempts by the opposition to seize control of not only such large centers of border provinces as Jalalabad or Qandahar but also small cities, for instance, Qalat have ended ingloriously.

["The anti-Afghan propaganda machine now sets afloat rumours that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is so weak that [it] will fall before long. If we look back, however, we will see that the Zahir-Shah regime fell in three hours, the Daoud regime—in 12 hours, and, by the way, across the country. At the same time, the current government offers befitting resistance to ever mounting interference and aggression, in which the United States, NATO countries and reactionary regimes in the region, primarily Pakistan, are involved".]

"One can say with confidence that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan now holds power firmly and, moreover, is the strongest and most stable government in the entire history of Afghanistan. Once interference from abroad ceases, in accordance with the Geneva agreements, peace in our country can be established within the shortest time frame."

"We are confident that the unity of the Afghan people is the pledge of preserving independence, freedom, territorial integrity, sovereignty, and the international authority of the state," the president said. "Where the people are a cohesive force, extremists will never triumph. The defenders of the revolution have proven this on more than occasion in many provinces of the country. About 21,000 rockets—three for each citizen—were fired at the city of Qalat, for instance. Rockets destroyed many houses, mosques, and schools. The defenders of the city, however, did not waver and dealt a crushing retaliatory blow to the enemy."

"The past weeks also taught us bitter lessons. The events in Konduz demonstrated to the whole country what indecision, the lack of considering security issues, conflicts between heads of provinces, alienation from the people, and the readiness to give up positions can lead to. Konduz is saved today, and life returns to normal there. A message came from the elders of the people in

the Emam Saheb and Khanabad Districts, saying that the opposing armed forces there have agreed to talks. Relying on the principles of coalition, we will establish, without using force, peace and coalition government bodies in these districts." [The TASS report here adds the following: "If nobody fights against us, we too will not fight. Just like in Emam Saheb and Khanabad, we are prepared to establish coalition government in other areas of the country as well in order to scale down the level of military confrontation. The wounds inflicted by the developments in Konduz will not heal for a long time, however, although we will restore the city. We will bring to account the culprits whose irresponsibility led to the tragedy. The lessons of Konduz should not be lost on us and the tragic events not recur. The experience gained in Konduz proved useful in another province—Bamian. The elders of this province's population approached the leadership of the country with the request to proclaim Hazarehjat a zone of peace and neutral territory. Proclaiming neutrality or establishing a coalition government is also envisaged in several other areas, which is possible on the basis of mutual understanding and talks with opposition groups, people and elders. Among these areas are Nurestan and Sar-e Pol Provinces".]

The president of Afghanistan dwelt on the upcoming Soviet-Afghan space mision. He said, in part: "The sons of our homeland will represent the Republic of Afghanistan in sapce. The importance of the flight for the Republic can hardly be overestimated. Afghanistan will become the fourth Asian country whose citizens will travel into space".

The president made a proposal to the opposition for observing the day of the joint space flight with a ceasefire throughout the country.

Afghan Minister Praises Joint Space Flight

LD2808153888 Moscow TASS in English 1228 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 28 TASS—Every real patriot of Afghanistan may these days take pride in the names of Afghan cosmonauts who are to explore outer space for our homeland, the BAKHTAR news agency has been told by member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Minister of Communications of the Republic of Afghanistan Muhammad Aslam Watanjar.

Without the Soviet Union's assistance, the participation of sons of Afghanistan in space flight, a scientific event of world-wide significance, would have been unthinkable not only now but also in the more remote future. The Afghan people is sincerely grateful to the Soviet people, the specialists who took part in preparations for the flight, said Muhammad Aslam Watanjar.

The Afghan minister noted the importance of the programme of explorations to be carried out in the interests of the national economy of Afghanistan. He said that Afghan scientists were looking forward to the results of the flight, noting particular value of explorations for discovering new mineral deposits, water sources, predicting epicenters of possible earthquakes, constructing irrigation facilities, more rationally using the crop areas.

The joint space flight, said the minister of communications, will help enhance Afghanistan's international prestige and will turn a new page in the history of all-round cooperation between the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR.

Arrives To View Launch

LD2608163088 Moscow TASS in English 1623 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—An official Afghan delegation headed by Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the Political Bureau of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, arrived in the Soviet Union today at the invitation of the USSR Chief Administration for the Development and Use of Space Engineering for the Economy and Research (Glavkosmos).

The delegation will be present at the launch of the Soyuz TM-6 spaceship, with a Soviet-Afghan crew aboard, from the Baykonur launch site on August 29.

Wakil Meets With Vorontsov in Moscow

LD2908063088 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0615 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow 29 Aug (TASS)—'Abdul Wakil, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, was in Moscow between 27 and 29 August on his way to Kabul from Budapest.

During his stay in Moscow, 'Abdul Wakil met with Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy USSR foreign minister.

Reportage on Afghan Military Developments

Kabul Airport Area Shelled

LD2808123888 Moscow TASS in English 1208 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 28 TASS—TASS correspondents Oleg Kuzmin and Yuriy Tyssovskiy report:

Four people fell victim to Saturday's massive rocketing by extremists of Kabul airport area. Seventeen people were injured, among them women and children. A warehouse and a patrol tanker burnt out, three planes of the air company Ariana sustained insignificant damage. The fire was opened from the south-eastern direction in the area of Khak-e Jabbar, some 25 kilometers away from Kabul.

The situation in Qandahar is tightly controlled by government troops, Qandahar Governor-General Nurol Haq Ulumi said in an Afghan radio interview. He strongly refuted the allegations by the Western propaganda machine that there was no state power in the province. Ulumi expressed confidence in the ability of the Afghan troops to repel any attempts by extremists to sieze the city.

At a jirgah held Saturday representatives of Qandahar's clergy confirmed support for the course of national reconciliation steered by the country's leadership. They stated their readiness to contribute in action to the restoration of peace in the province and voiced for scrupulous observance of the Geneva agreements.

Afghan Army units carried out operations against anti-government formations in Paktia and Baghlan Provinces, BAKHTAR news agency reported. In Seyyed Karam District, Paktia Province, they dispersed a group of rebels who threatened the security of the city of Gardeyz. Eight extremists, among them ringleader Wali, and also two Arab advisers were killed during the fighting. A large amount of weapons, among them two missile launchers and a 122-mm mortar, were destroyed.

An armed group of 30 people went over to the side of the government in Faryab Province. "Ensuring peace and security in the country rather than waging war is the cause of true Muslims", Group Commander Zaralam said at a meeting in the city of Meymaneh.

Soviet Soldiers Wounded

LD2808205988 Moscow TASS in English 1750 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 28 TASS—The last Saturday became "black" for many families of the Afghan capital. The city was subjected to an unprecedented massive bombardment with ground-to-ground missiles by extremist groups. Almost a half of 127 missiles fired fell on the area of the airport, insignificant damage was reported to have been caused to the runway. Damage was also inflicted upon planes of Ariana Airline and transport aircraft. A total of 30 people suffered, of whom five were killed. Part of the rockets fell on the headquarters of the Soviet Army units stationed near the airport, injuring eight servicemen, some of them severely.

It strikes the eye that the "irreconcilables" keep adhering to the tactic of indiscriminate raids on the capital from large distances, using long-range missiles supplied to them via Pakistan by advocates of the "struggle against terrorism" from Western countries and some Arab regimes.

This leads to a growing number of casualties, primarily among civilian population. The Saturday raid has demonstrated for one more time the false nature of the attempts by extremists to shift onto Soviet troops the responsibility for these barbarous acts of terrorism.

According to reports reaching here, armed formations of extremists move rockets of the heavy type, portable Stinger (USA) and Blowpipe (Britain) anti-aircraft missile systems to their bases around Kabul. These modern missiles are delivered to Paghman area in boxes bearing the signature "NATO arsenal". Milan anti-tank missiles, manufactured in Italy, and Spanish-made heavy mortars were shipped to the mujahidins from North Atlantic countries. Chinese-made 122-and 107-calibre rockets are registered to be in service with several groups.

TV Views Airport Situation

LD2808195388 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Aug 88

[From the "International Panorama" program, presented by Georgiy Zubkov; video report by Mikhail Leshchinskiy, identified by caption]

[Text] Every foreigner who has occasion to visit Afghanistan is received at and is seen off at Kabul International Airport. Air travel is the only way to get to this country, which has neither railway nor water links and where travel by road is extremely dangerous. But the reason for the intensive life of the airport—the frequency of take-offs and landings here is not much lower than at some of the world's major airports—lies not just in this. This is a so-called joint-base airfield: Military transport aircraft and helicopters belonging to the Afghan Air Force are registered here alongside civilian aircraft. [video shows airport terminal building marked Kabul; civil aircraft, military transport aircraft, and helicopters parked alongside runways and on open ground]

Of course, that fact and along with it the armed patrols, the strict conditions governing the checking of documents, and the military helicopters hovering at a certain low height in the airport zone give rise to a completely explicable feeling of alarm in everyone who comes here for the first time. This feeling is totally different from the usual feeling of light excitement experienced by the airline passenger. Well, this airport, in its appearance, is fully in tune with the situation that has arisen in the country. Rocket- propelled shells have exploded here, too, on more than one occasion; bombs have exploded in the waiting rooms; and the number of take-offs by Afghan military transport aircraft unfortunately does not always correspond to the number of planes landing. [video shows rotating helicopter blades, helicopter rising, helicopter hovering, civil airliner taking off; close-up of helicopter on ground; helicopter hovering; damaged airport roadway light and damaged vehicle; debris from damage on the ground]

Kabul airport is also very familiar to our own servicemen. Over the past few weeks and even months, we have told you, comrades, a great deal about the roads that have taken our soldiers back to their homeland. Many times we have traveled along these roads to the frontier and back, and then again to the frontier. But one of those roads begins here, at the airfield of Kabul aerodrome.

From here to Tashkent is little more than an hour's flying time—to the frontier it's much less. Yet nevertheless, this road, too, has been a trial of courage for many people. There aren't any music bands, meetings, flowers, or speeches of thanks here. It all takes place in an everyday, workaday fashion. But just think of the joyful but complex feelings that seize everyone who at this moment bids farewell to a land where they have lived through so much. [video shows Leshchinskiy speaking to camera with UN vehicle behind him; line of Soviet officers drawn up beside an airliner in the Aeroflot livery; uniformed man wearing UN insignia and a blue beret makes an entry in a notebook; handshakes; line of men enters aircraft; airliner taxies away as its tail turret guns move up and down]

And while the aircraft was moving off toward the strip, we had a brief chat with the UN observers, who are officers from Poland and Ireland. What is their mission here at the aerodrome? The same as it is everywhere where Soviet troops are moving, they reply: to record every soldier or officer who leaves Afghanistan in accordance with the Geneva agreements. They are fully satisfied with the conditions in which they work and the cooperation with representatives of the Soviet command. [video shows Leshchinskiy talking to two men in UN uniform standing alongside a UN vehicle]

To the eye of the uninitiated, this spectacle might appear fascinating and even beautiful. You won't see this kind of thing at a normal airport. A heavy plane takes off from the runway and immediately turns steeply while rising, and also simultaneously fires off bright heat-emitting rockets. This is while several pairs of combat helicopters form themselves into a merry-go-round between the aircraft and the ground . Well, all of this demonstrates the high level of danger that exists even here within the strictly-protected zone of Kabul airport. Every action taking place in the air has a precise purpose. The bright flares beneath the fuselage and the engines are decoys to draw heat-seeking antiaircraft missiles away from the aircraft. The helicopters, which observe the ground from a low height, are capable of forestalling a missile attack should they discover a launcher on the ground. They also are to draw, as it were, possible rocket fire. [video shows aircraft taking off, shooting out flares as they rise; helicopters hovering]

Quite definite grounds exist for employing all these precautionary measures. Since the Geneva agreements went into effect, sabotage and terrorist activity have been stepped up considerably in Kabul Province. Kabul airport, too, has been fired upon by a mobile group especially infiltrated from Pakistan. That day, rocket-propelled shells also exploded on the territory of an adjacent Soviet military unit where teams were being established for repatriation, and also in neighboring accomodation for military units. As a result, two people were killed and eight were wounded. [video shows what are probably rocket shells laid out on the ground, damaged buildings with broken windows and scarred walls]

Kabul International Airport. Its runways are like frontiers, and not just because it is here that foreigners cross the state frontier of Afghanistan. Here runs the frontier between war and peace, between civilization and reason and senseless, fratricidal carnage. [video shows aircraft lifting off runway and flying away]

Afghan Bamian Forces Redeployed

LD2708102888 Moscow TASS in English 0925 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 27 TASS—Tensions have been running high in recent days in Bamian, a central province of Afghanistan. Anti-government armed groups have stepped up fighting and are shelling a number of populated localities, the BAKHTAR agency said.

Earlier, after the signing of the Geneva accords and the start of withdrawal of Soviet troops, government bodies contacted some opposition detachments to set up coalition bodies of power in the province. The talks are continuing yet the irreconcilable groups are trying to foil them. Proceeding from the interests of a peaceful settlement of the situation in Bamian, units of the Armed Forces of the Republic based there have temporarily changed the place of their stationing.

BAKHTAR also said that the elders of the province's population have requested the government to announce Bamian a neutral territory, which is designed to contribute towards the implementation of the aims of the national reconcilation policy. This question is to be examined at a special jirgah soon.

Reports have come from Paktia Province on jirgahs of population held there in support of the peaceable policy of the country's leadership. The elders and chiefs of tribes who came together in the city of Gardeyz and the area of Rud-e Ahmadzai have decided to assume responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security, for organizing peace jirgahs in districts and to set up groups for contacting the enemies of the government, give aid to the returning refugees. Major-General Barakzay, governor of Paktia, who took part in the jirgahs, stressed the preparedness of the government bodies to cooperate in every way possible with Pashtun tribes in restoring peace, help towards the economic development of the areas inhabited by them.

Afghan Situation Remains 'Quite Complicated'

LD2708220888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The situation in Afghanistan remains quite complicated. Following the completion of the first stage of the withdrawal of our troops, the ringleaders of the armed opposition detachments decided to simultaneously take over a number of provinces. The outcome of such a takeover was fully experienced by the people of

the northern city of Konduz, where the extremists maintained control for several days. Here is our Afghanistan correspondent, Aleksandr Shkirando:

[Shkirando] Over those few days, the city and its inhabitants were subjected to mass robbery and violence. The bandits stole 35 metric tons of fuel and 54 metric tons of food from the city's stocks, all shops were looted, and state establishments and enterprises were smashed to pieces. Deciding that it would be impossible to hold the city for long, the bandits retreated beneath the blows of the Afghan Army, abducting 200 girls and applying lynch law against a group of captured soldiers and people's militiamen—they had their hands chopped off. Such outrageous behavior by the irreconcilable opposition aroused the anger and indignation of all inhabitants of Konduz.

In the course of the last week, peaceful towns and villages have frequently been subjected to barbaric shelling. According to competent Afghan sources, Pakistani militiamen also took part in the shelling of the city of Khowst. Four hundred such militiamen have taken up a position not far from Khowst. They are armed with 152-mm howitzers.

Over the past few days, people in Afghanistan have been voicing the hope that this kind of open interference in the affairs of a neighboring country will cease, following the death of Pakistan's President Ziaul Haq. Such hopes have been reinforced by the pronouncements of Pakistan's acting president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan. In one of his first statements, he said his country would faithfully adhere to the Geneva agreements and help stabilize the situation in Afghanistan. On the whole, despite all the difficulties, the situation in Afghanistan has gradually begun to change since the Geneva agreements were signed. This has been noted during visits to Kabul by both public figures from various countries and representatives of international organizations. Here, for example, is what WPC General Secretary Johannes Pakaslahti said in an interview with Soviet radio:

[Begin Pakaslahti recording in English, fading into Russian translation] After Geneva, a new situation has taken shape in Afghanistan. The first thing we felt is that both the country itself and its people want peace. There are reliable political instruments, both external and internal, for establishing peace and mutual understanding—that is, the Geneva agreements and the policy of national reconciliation. [end recording]

WPC Head Praises Soviet Withdrawal

LD2708091388 Moscow TASS in English 0818 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 27 TASS—The World Peace Council unreservedly supports any steps aimed at removing seats of tension on the globe, among them the Geneva agreements which constitute the initial point for resolving all problems emerging around Afghanistan, Johannes Pakaslathi, WPC general secretary, said in an interview with TASS correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy.

He emphasized that the accords reached by Afghanistan and Pakistan in Geneva cannot be boiled down exclusively to their regional significance. They are of universal nature as the manifestation of the policy based on new thinking and can become a model for handling involved regional conflicts in other parts of the world.

Pakaslathi, who heads the WPC delegation visiting the Republic of Afghanistan, said that a distorted picture of how the Geneva agreements are implemented is painted in the West. The WPC delegation has as its task to collect facts on the spot so as to see the real picture of this most complex process, he said. We are open to all views, are ready to learn any standpoints, conduct any discussion with all willing. The hectic programme drawn up by our hosts allows us to attain in a considerable measure this goal.

WPC general secretary said that the delegation met senior executives of official institutions of the Republic of Afghanistan, including ministers and leaders of public organisations, representatives of tribes, of the staff of the U.N. Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan, repatriates who returned from Pakistan, and representatives of the command of the limited contingent of Soviet troops.

He said those were very useful contacts which enabled the delegation to reach definite conclusions. Primarily, they make one believe in the sincerity of the Afghan leadership's striving to continue with pursuing the path of a peaceful settlement of Afghan problems and strictly fulfilling its part of the Geneva package. The Afghan leadership is prepared to discuss any issues with all opposition groups in any place and in any time.

As for the Soviet side, Pakaslathi said, it scrupulously abides by its commitments concerning troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and under the Geneva accords completed its first stage. The USSR is ready to implement all obligations assumed, which will become an important contribution to attaining the goals of a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan.

We had conferred with representatives of the democratic forces of Pakistan, which put pressure on the Islamabad authorities with a view to compelling them to implement the letter and spirit of the Geneva arrangements. They hold that so far Pakistan does not do it, the WPC general secretary said. In conclusion he expressed the hope based on the opinion of U.N. monitors that in this direction too it would be possible to achieve substantial positive shifts before long.

Radio Warns U.S. on Dictating Afghan Events

BK2708170688 Moscow in Urdu to Pakistan 1100 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Aleksandr Batev commentary]

[Text] In an interview with the ABC television network, the White House spokesman warned Islamabad that if it in the future does not want to continue the process of supplying U.S. arms to the Afghan rebels, U.S.-Pakistani relations may be adversely affected. The White House spokesman's statement is clear proof of the U.S. administration's anxiety. The NEW YORK TIMES writes in this connection that Washington considered President Ziaul Haq a faithful ally whose friendship guaranteed the supply of arms. Now, after the death of the Pakistan president, international observers are not ruling out the possibility of Islamabad adopting a milder policy vis-a-vis Afghanistan. However, Washington on its behalf made it clear that only the old, tough policy against Afghanistan is appropriate for Islamabad. Moreover, Washington is striving without any hesitation to impose its attitude on the new leaders of Pakistan. White House statements are nothing but vehement efforts to bully Islamabad.

It is amply clear that such pressure is inappropriate in all respects. It is prejudicial to norms and regulations governing relations between states. It is also inappropriate in the sense that Washington, by demanding that Islamabad continue to serve as a conduit for supplying arms to Afghan extremists, is violating an international pledge it made as a guarantor of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan. The United States, by signing these accords, took upon itself the responsibility of reinforcing the cause of peace in Afghanistan. Everyone understands that the continuation of the arms supply is aimed not at ending the war in Afghanistan but rather at continuing it. But Washington remains intransigent in trying to convince Islamabad to continue supporting the subversive activities of Afghan extremist gangs.

This is dragging Pakistan into an incongruous situation. Islamabad is a party to the Geneva accords under which it pledged to prevent the use of its territory for external interference in Afghanistan. However, Islamabad in the recent past seems to be highly incapable of discharging its international obligations. This is because the arms supply to Afghan rebels through Pakistani territory has increased rather than ended. Gangs opposed to the Afghan Government are openly carrying out subversive activities. One of the main reasons for the Pakistani administration's peculiar dishonesty is the silent blessing it received from Washington.

Now, after the death of President Ziaul Haq, we see that Washington is openly putting pressure on Islamabad to continue violating its pledge regarding the Geneva accords. It is not even necessary to point out that this may strongly damage Pakistan's international prestige. But international prestige is only one aspect of the matter. The main thing is that Washington, while instigating Islamabad to continue to pursue an anti-Afghan path, could create such a situation in which Pakistan could become directly involved in the Afghan conflict. Newspapers have many times published reports that Pakistan's military advisers are active among the Afghan rebel gangs in Afghan territory. Also, a few days ago it came to light that since the end of July, a full contingent comprising 400 Pakistani militiamen has been stationed south of the Afghan city of Khowst. Their mission is to aid the activities of Afghan extremists through firing rockets and shelling targets. One can only speculate about the consequences of such aggressive Pakistani actions against the neighboring country. But one thing which can be said with certainty is that even now there is time to put an end to all this, and that it is necessary to adopt this attitude.

Islamabad's participation in Washington's anti-Afghan policy continues to create an unstable situation in various parts of Pakistan. Gangs of Afghan extremists in Pakistan have carried out waves of atrocities. According to various statistics, nearly one-third of the total subversive activities carried out throughout the world were acts of sabotage in Pakistan. It will be reasonable to mention here that these acts of sabotage are also carried out using U.S. weapons which the Afghan rebels sell on the black market. According to witnesses' testimony, any weapon from a tommy gun to a Stinger antiaircraft missile can be bought on the black market. This fact agitates the mind, especially now that experts believe that Ziaul Haq's plane could have been brought down by a missile. Of course, such versions cannot be accepted as fact, but as the Soviet newspaper PRAVDA has logically written, if the theory about an act of sabotage against the plane is confirmed, then it could be assumed that President Ziaul Haq became a victim of his own policy.

Pakistan catapulted itself into the sphere of terrorist activities the day it allowed itself to participate in the U.S. undeclared war against Afghanistan. Now increasing numbers of Pakistanis are becoming the targets of terrorism. That is why it is no coincidence that almost all the opposition parties in Pakistan favor a settlement of the Afghan conflict and that Pakistan unconditionally fulfills its international obligations concerning the Geneva accords. Meanwhile, Washington continues its efforts to openly put pressure on Pakistan by all means, including criticism of the Pakistani opposition's line.

BAKHTAR on U.S. 'Information Terrorism'

LD2608130488 Moscow TASS in English 1132 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 26 TASS—"Afghanistan can regard inventions of the U.S. Department of State in one way only: as a deliberate attack on the republic, as another manifestation of 'information terrorism' which is part of state terrorism adopted by U.S. foreign policy-makers,"

the BAKHTAR news agency has stated in connection with the accusation of terrorism brought by the U.S. Department of State against the Republic of Afghanistan.

It is really surprising that the charges are brought by a country which has used methods of terrorism for many years against the states and politicians that do not suit it, BAKHTAR pointed out. The undeclared war against Afghanistan is one of the latest examples of the subversive activities of the Central Intelligence Agency sanctioned by Washington. "Surface-to-surface" and "surface-to-air" missiles delivered to extremists killed thousands of peaceful civilians.

Afghanistan, true to the principles of the consolidation of international security, peaceful coexistence, non-interference in the internal affairs and the development of equitable friendly relations with all the countries of the world, emphatically opposes state terrorism and fights against it jointly with other peace-minded and progressive forces of the world, BAKHTAR stated.

Report on Plans To Improve Afghan Transportation
LD2608212888 Moscow TASS in English 1402 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—A general scheme for the development of transport of Afghanistan, worked out with the participation of Soviet specialists, will be fully implemented by the end of the century. The scale of operation of railways, river fleet, automobiles and how they will be coordinated, have been determined.

Soviet specialists may join in implementing such a large-scale program if the Afghan side so wishes, a TASS correspondent was told by Dmitriy Yekimchev, who heads the Soviet Association for Transport Construction Abroad. Plans are afoot, for instance, to build new motorways in the north of the country, a railway at the foot of the Hindu Kush Mountains. The process of the political settlement in Afganistan opens up fresh opportunities for broader economic, scientific and technological ties between our countries.

This interaction between transport builders of the two friendly countries is a tradition of long standing. As Dmitriy Yekimchev said, it is through joint efforts that the main transport artery for motor vehicles in Afghanistan, which extends from the Soviet border to Kabul, is maintained. On this road the Salang Tunnel is being modernized, and another group of Soviet specialists has gone there to take part.

According to joint documents signed this summer, in Hayraton with its large oil storage facility the transit possibilities will be expanded and the shore installations will be strengthened. A new housing development has been started here with the assistance of Soviet builders.

Egyptian Minister Ghali Praises Soviet Relations
LD2608214788 Moscow TASS in English 1440 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo August 26 TASS—The most important feature of the relations between the peoples of Egypt and the USSR is friendship cemented by the prolonged joint struggles, said Butrus Ghali, Egypt's foreign minister [title as received] and chairman of the board of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society. In an interview with the Cairo weekly AKHIR SA'AH in connection with today's 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Egypt and the USSR, the minister said he was in favour of broader links in the economic, scientific and cultural fields. Butrus Ghali said he was confident that Soviet-Egyptian cooperation will further peace and progress in the interests of the peoples of both countries and the whole of mankind.

The foreign minister [word indistinct] the immense importance of the Soviet steps to end the arms race and achieve disarmament, above all nuclear. He described the signing of the Soviet-American treaty eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles as a historic step which reduces the threat of a nuclear confrontation. He also praised the Soviet position on the question of a Middle East settlement.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Delegations View Quadripartite Talks 'Favorably'
LD2808113588 Moscow TASS in English 1113 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Brazzaville August 28 TASS—The heads of the delegations of Angola and Cuba have favourably appraised the results of the work of the fifth round of the quadripartite negotiations on settling the situation in South-West Africa, which has ended here. The Republic of South Africa and the United States participated in it. In the course of the meetings held here with President of the People's Republic of the Congo Denis Sassou-Nguesso they expressed the hope that concrete results could be attained for the first time in the next round of Brazzaville negotiations, to begin in a few days' time, on questions of withdrawing Cuban troops from Angola and granting independence to Namibia.

Cuban troops are to be withdrawn with due account for problems of Angola's security, the head of the Angolan delegation to the negotiations, Chief of the General Staff of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola Antonio dos Santos Fransa (Ndalu) said in a Congolese television interivew. The next round of negotiations, he said, will undoubtedly be the concluding one in the quest for a compromise in solving the question of withdrawal of Cuban troops.

Harare August 28 TASS—The pooling of efforts of all countries with a view of solving problems in South Africa itself should be the logical continuation of the

process of negotiations of settlement of the situation in South-West Africa, which includes the granting of independence to Namibia, said Botswana's Foreign Minister Gaositwe Chiepe. Speaking at the National Assembly of the Republic, she said that this would accord with the spirit of the current changes in international relations, the changes which open up new prospects for a peaceful future to all countries and peoples.

Talks End; Communique Issued

LD2708105888 Moscow TASS in English 1017 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Brazzaville August 27 TASS—TASS correspondent Boris Filipov reports:

The quadripartite conference on problems of southern Africa drew to an end here last night. It adopted a joint communique which says that the delegations of the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of South Africa held with the mediation of the U.S. Government meetings in Brazzaville on August 24-26 to continue the negotiations aimed at a peaceful solution to the conflict in South-West Africa.

During this round of the negotiations the parties considered the terms of withdrawing Cuban troops in the northern direction and also the question of their gradual and total withdrawal alongside other issues pertaining to a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

The terms for troop withdrawal will be agreed upon between the Governments of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba.

The discussions in Brazzaville were of a serious, detailed and constructive nature. The delegations exchanged views and evaluations which could make it easier to handle the remaining problems. All parties concurred in the need for additional consultations with the governments of their countries. They decided to meet in Brazzaville once again in a week.

SWAPO Envoy on Struggle for Independence

LD2708042388 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 26 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today is the day of Namibia. Taking part in our program is Nangbolo Filemon Malima, head of the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] mission in the USSR.

[Malima in English with superimposed Russian translation] Dear comrades and friends, on this day in 1966, the Namibian people, headed by SWAPO, took to arms in response to the colonial violence and oppression of the racist regime of South Africa to liberate their country. Since then, thousands of young men and women have voluntarily joined the ranks of the Namibian People's Liberation Army, the military wing of SWAPO. Our organization today is a powerful force, and the entire oppressed Namibian people look on it as a guarantor of national unity in the struggle against colonial occupation for freedom, independence, and self-determination.

We consider the armed struggle to be an efficient vehicle for liberating our country. At the same time, we consistently stand for direct talks with the RSA in search for a peaceful solution to the Namibian issue.

However, for more than a decade all our efforts, as well as those by the United Nations, directed at reaching a peaceful settlement of this issue on the basis of Security Council Resolution 435 have been flouted by the RSA and its imperialist allies—above all, by the Reagan administration.

The talks between Angola, Cuba, the RSA, and the United States currently being held have led to a certain progress and positive developments in the south of Africa. SWAPO welcomes those talks.

The cease-fire agreed upon between Angola and the RSA on 10 August and the beginning of the withdrawal of the racist regime troops from Angolan territory are an important step along that path. It is expected that in October the RSA and SWAPO will also reach a cease-fire agreement.

I would like to say in conclusion that we will continue to count on the solidarity and selfless help of friendly states and, above all, the USSR, and various organizations of progressive mankind until Namibia is truly independent. The struggle continues: We are confident that we will win.

End to U.S. Aid to UNITA Urged

LD2708081388 Moscow TASS in English 0627 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Washington August 27 TASS—The anti-government UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] elements backed by South Africa and funded by the USA have no support among the Angolan population. UNITA men are engaged in brigandage and killing of Angola's peaceful civilians. The USA should immediately end military aid to UNITA and normalise relations with Luanda. A statement to this effect was made at a press conference in Washington on Friday by Damu Smith, executive director of the Washington Office on Africa, a U.S. public organization. D. Smith has recently visited Angola among a delegation of representatives of human rights associations and churchmen. In the course of the trip, American public figures met with Angolan President Dos Santos and cabinet ministers. They also visited various part of the country to familiarise themselves first-hand with the situation.

We saw thousands of refugees, women, children and old people, who fled the areas where UNITA operates, Damu Smith said. We saw schools and hospital buildings, apartment houses destroyed as a result of the South African aggression. We saw thousands of children who came to Angola from Namibia. We also saw in child welfare institutions hundreds of children with their legs and arms torn off. They hit mines planted in the countryside by UNITA gangs.

Therefore, Damu Smith said, we demand an end to U.S. military aid to UNITA. Over the past two years Washington supplied the Jonas Savimbi gangs with arms worth 30 million dollars, including Stinger missiles, shells and mines. He noted that the continued funding of arms supplies to UNITA will signal the continuation of the war in Angola. Damu Smith said that the USA is responsible for the casualties among Angola's peaceful population against which the UNITA gangs are waging the war using the U.S.-made weapons.

Our meetings with President Dos Santos, he continued, have convinced us that Angola, the Angolan people wish peace, that they are sick and tired of war, that they are seeking normal relations with the USA.

Damu Smith said that without support from the RSA, without support from the USA, UNITA would be simply unable to wage the war in Angola.

Touching upon the current quadripartite talks on a settlement in southern Africa, the American public figure said that after familiarising himself with the situation in place, conversations with political figures and diplomats he drew the conclusion that Pretoria agreed to sit down to the negotiating table only after encountering a firm rebuttal from Angola's armed forces and the Cuban military contingent helping them to parry the South African aggression. There is not even the slightest doubt that Cuba is staying in Angola on a legitimate basis and in conformity with Article 51 of the U.N. Charter. While the RSA is clearly an aggressor." [quotation marks as received]

Petrovskiy Holds Talks With Nigeria's Anka

LD2708234988 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1837 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Lagos, 27 Aug (TASS)—Political consultations have taken place at Nigeria's Ministry of External Affairs between Vladimir Petrovskiy, USSR deputy foreign minister, and Muhammad Anka, Nigerian minister of state for external affairs. A broad range of matters was discussed related to the further deepening of bilateral relations and the development of interaction at multilateral forums and negotiations. Both sides noted the coincidence of positions on fundamental issues connected with building up an all-embracing international security system and strengthening the role of the UN as a center for coordinating the actions of nations. In discussing international problems, great attention was paid to questions relating to a political settlement in Namibia and the elimination of apartheid.

The Soviet side also expressed support for Nigeria's initiative on examining issues connected with banning the burial of radioactive and toxic wastes in the African Continent. The sides consider it essential to resolve as soon as possible the questions connected with creating a mixed intergovernmental commission on cooperation and the conclusion of a consular convention.

The ministers touched on matters relating to the completion of the first stage of the metallurgical works in the town of Ajaokuta, which is being built in Nigeria with Soviet assistance. On behalf of the Nigerian Government, the minister of state for external affairs assured the Soviet Union that the Nigerian side will fulfill its obligations to pay its debt regarding this cooperation project.

V.A. Petrovskiy and Muhammad Anka reached an accord on holding regular political consultations between the two countries' foreign ministries.

Burundi 'Takes Measures' To End Ethnic Conflict

LD2608215188 Moscow TASS in English 1552 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Dar es Salaam August 26 TASS—The Burundi Government takes measures to restore law and order in the country's northern provinces after bloody ethnic clashes which took place there, said in Kigali Burundi President Pierre Buyoya. People guilty of killings, he said, will be called to account. According to the head of the state, the number of victims possibly tops 5,000.

The president called on relatives of the deceased to give up blood feud and to put an end to violence. Such actions, he pointed out, prevent the country from fulfilling tasks of development facing it.

The flareup in ethnic strife provoked an influx of refugees from Burundi to neighbouring Rwanda. Between 2,000 and 3,000 people cross daily the border. According to the data of the Rwandan authorities, over 40,000 Burundi refugees stay in Rwanda as of today.

Sao Tome Foreign Minister Received for Talks

LD2708040988 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1540 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 26 Aug (TASS)—Georgiy Tarazevich, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, received today Carlos Alberto Dias da Graca, the foreign minister of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, who is in the USSR at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

In the course of a friendly conversation, they confirmed the closeness or identity of the positions of Sao Tome and the USSR on many problems of the international

situation. The interlocutors gave a positive assessment of the state of Soviet-Sao Tome relations, and expressed mutual willingness to expand them further in view of the real opportunities and needs of the two countries.

Carlos Alberto Dias da Graca gave information about the socioeconomic situation in Sao Tome and the problems being tackled at present by the Sao Tome people. He showed great interest in the restructuring that is taking place in the USSR, and considered that there is much in connection with this that is useful for his country as well.

On the same day, Anatoliy Adamishin, USSR deputy foreign minister, had a meeting with Carlos Alberto Dias da Graca.

East Europe

Reportage on Continuing Strikes in Poland

PZPR Anti-Strike Moves Noted

PM2608133788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Letter to Party Members" under rubric "Decision Made To Convene Regular PZPR Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] Warsaw, 24 Aug—The PZPR Central Committee Politburo has sent a letter to all party members in which it instructs party bodies and organizations and all party members to counter attempts to organize illegal strikes, set an example of a sense of responsibility for the state of enterprises and the national economy as a whole, and be guided by the principles of the law. It is essential, the letter emphasizes, to guard the reforms, combat bureaucracy, act on behalf of the real interests of the working class and all working people, signal and actively participate in the solution of problems causing social tension, and take part in initiatives to restore the situation to normal at enterprises and ensure public calm.

Analyzing the sociopolitical and economic situation in the country, a report on the scheduled session published today in the Polish press says that the PZPR Central Committee Politburo has indicated that the difficult living conditions and justified criticism and demands addressed to the authorities do not warrant the law being broken or obstacles being placed in the way of production, transport work, and trade with other countries. The normal functioning of the economy and the state is now in jeopardy. The damage to the economy is increasing. A substantial blow has been dealt to Polish prestige and to economic faith in Poland in international relations.

The PZPR Central Committee Politburo has expressed deep concern with regard to the persisting shortages of various goods on the market, the threat to the living conditions of certain social groups, the scandalous inequality in income that is not justified by real labor input, and the policy that has been implemented in the sphere of prices and incomes. The session gave a critical assessment of the results of economic activity, the increase in inflationary trends, and the deterioration in the supply of consumer goods. It stressed that the present situation demands a consistent deepening of reform, bold changes to earlier decisions, and the removal of those who have proved to be unreliable or inefficient. It named the most urgent tasks as being safeguarding people's living conditions, improving market supply, and curtailing spiraling inflation.

Further changes in the economy must be based on the strong foundation of national concord and reliable cooperation with allied partners. Bolder steps must be taken in the direction of forming a patriotic coalition in support of reform.

The decision was taken to convene a regular PZPR Central Committee plenum in the near future.

According to reports from PAP, illegal strikes by some labor collectives at a number of coal mines in Katowice Voivodship are continuing. At the same time, they point out that concern is growing among the broad masses of working people over the threat which the strike action is posing to the process of modernizing the coal mining industry and enterprises' assets. At the "Andaluzja" mine, the second miners' shift decided to go to work. The miners pulled down the wire barriers erected by the strikers and entered the mine area. An illegal 1-day strike has ended at a truck repair plant in Wroclaw. In Szczecin, strikers who had occupied two streetcar depots and one bus station handed over the premises under pressure from those who wanted to go back to work and after intervention from forces protecting public order. The result of this has been the resumption of normal work on some routes. The remaining routes are being covered by buses sent in from other cities.

As Polish Government spokesman J. Urban said at a news conference, the process of broad reforms being carried out in the country and the successful development of a political dialogue with everyone holding different views has prompted concern among those people who would like to bring back the past. Most of the strikes are being inspired by figures from the former "Solidarity" organization, whose established apparatus once numbered 40,000 people. These functionaries have now scattered across the country and, exploiting the difficult economic situation, are doing their utmost to incite groups of working people to organize strikes, the government spokesman emphasized.

TV Notes Strike Opposition

LD2608211888 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video reportage from Warsaw by Yuriy Ulyanov]

[Text] [Ulyanov] One cannot help comparing the strikes at some of the Polish enterprises with the events of the early eighties. The memory of the crisis period urges the

authorities to look energetically for a way out of the economic situation, which is growing worse with every passing day. The memories of the time when there was nothing in the stores but vinegar have already led to difficulties in the supply of flour, sugar, groats, and even salt which are now felt in towns. [video shows views of a city on a rainy day, then cuts to shots of a long line at a supermarket; camera cuts to a fence almost completely covered by Solidarity slogans and banners calling for more strikes, political pluralism, etc.]

Just as in 1980-81, the strikes are being led by figures of the former Solidarity who offer them primarily political objectives. You should not forget that in that so-called trade union, there was an unbelievable total of more than 40,000 officials receiving union pay. Quite a few of them regularly receive considerable financial aid from the West, assistance which has to be earned. And the agitation meets with favorable reception. There are quite a few difficulties in the country, but who does not want to live better than he does?

But there is also something which makes the present situation in Poland essentially different from the past one: On the whole, the state has managed to not lose control of the situation in the country. The PZPR, the allied parties—the Peasants Party and the Democratic Party, the Socialist Youth, women's organizations—all unanimously condemn the continuing strikes. And what about the working class? [video cuts to factory entrance where several workers are interviewed]

These are the Warsaw Swierczewski machine-building works. A shift has just ended.

[First unidentified worker, speaking in Polish with superimposed Russian translation] What can the strikes provide? Nothing, apart from the failure to reach the targets of the second stage of the economic reform, a fall in living standards of all sectors of the country's population.

[Second unidentified worker] This is a kind of message to the government. It means that we are apparently doing something wrong somewhere. The economic problems should be resolved as quickly as possible to enable the process of renovation to make headway.

[Third unidentified worker] We, for example, are not striking because the organization of work at our factory is quite good, and, correspondingly, we earn good wages, too. And we are aware of the fact that the harder we work, the better it is for both society and for us.

[First worker] What alarms me is the fact that the strikers are, in fact, demanding restoration of the so-called Solidarity trade union. I believe that these strikes have a predominantly political nature, and I do not understand how can it be that 8,000 people who want to work are not able to oppose 200 strikers.

[Ulyanov] This is what Poland is like today, on 26 August 1988.

TASS Notes Strikes Ending

LD2608220688 Moscow TASS in English 1616 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Warsaw August 26 TASS—TASS correspondent Valentin Volkov reports:

Illegal strikes with the participation of part of the labour collective stopped Thursday night at another three mines in the Katowice region—the Krupinski, the ZNP and the May 1st mines. Special teams started preparing the mines for the resumption of coal production, the PAP news agency reports. Thus, the strikes are going on only at three mines. 700 workers instigated by extremists from underground groups are taking part in them.

The number of participants of the continuing illegal strikes instigated by the more extremist elements of underground groups is steadily reducing at the Szczecin port, the Gdansk shipyards and the Stalowa Wola steel works. The attempts to provoke strikes at some other major industrial enterprises ended in failure.

"Commonsense and the realization of the fact that enormous damage is being inflicted on the country begin to get an upper hand", the newspaper TRYBUNA LUDU wrote today, commenting on the reports about a dramatic reduction of the number of enterprises where illegal actions are taking place.

Soviet Support for Strikers Cited

LD2608112588 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0530 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] As we have already reported, several more pits have ended their illegal strikes in Poland. But strikes by an insignificant number of workers, incited by extremists, are still continuing at three pits. Naturally, Poles and friends of Poland are troubled by the question as to how soon common sense and reason will triumph, because the country's economic losses are growing. How long will the small group of strikers continue to cause damage to society? Now we go to Vasiliy Lesovik, our correspondent in Warsaw:

[Lesovik] All these questions are being voiced more and more frequently and persistently by the people of Poland. The miners and port workers themselves are expressing their own active dissatisfaction with the situation and at the interruptions in their work. And certain others are experiencing an enforced idleness because the so-called strike committees, who number in their ranks from several dozen to several hundred people, are dictating their will on the thousands-strong work teams.

The main objective of the extremists from the underground organizations, who are the inspiration and the guiding force behind the strikers, is the destabilization of

the situation in the country. The principle the worse, the better is the basis of their policy and actions. Certain Western radio voices broadcasting to Poland are guided by this very same principle. While they earlier indeed focused close attention on Poland, they have now stepped up their activities even more.

Yesterday the Polish press cited an example of the juggling of facts by the French AFP agency, which, to put it mildly, gave its own inimitable version of the events in Szczecin to the French people, proving that the strikes by transport workers in Szczecin were broken up by Army units. Unfortunately, a supporting voice from Moscow also joined in this instigatory chorus. Some type of fighters for freedom and democracy who tried to organize an illegal meeting in Pushkin Square on 21 August sent a letter of solidarity to the strikers in Poland.

Thus, the Polish extremists and Western radio voices have received unexpected backing.

How does the situation in the country look now? Of 12 pits which stopped working on various days both this week and last, the strikes have now ended at 5. Work has begun there; public transport is operating in Szczecin. Enterprises in Poznan and Wroclaw, where attempts were also made to organize mass strikes, are operating normally. Also, at a number of pits where the strikers have lifted their political demands, talks are underway with the administration on economic problems.

Kiszczak Offers Talks

LD2708103688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 27 Aug 88

[From the "International Diary" program, presented by Viktor Shcherbakov]

[Text] The Polish information agency, PAP, released a statement by General Kiszczak, chairman of the Committee for the Observance of Legality, Law, Order, and Discipline of the Polish Council of Ministers. The document states that he will meet with representatives of various public and labor circles as soon as possible. The meeting could possibly take the form of a roundtable session. As the statement stresses, there are no preliminary conditions attached to the subjects for discussion or the composition of the participants. Only persons who reject the legal and constitutional order in the Polish People's Republic will be excluded.

The general's initiative has been taken in conjunction with the fact that although the illegal strikes in the country are subsiding, and the prospect of their ending soon creates a new situation, the collectives of enterprises which have not been on strike, as well as those where strikes took place or are still underway, are concerned about various problems. They are making various demands.

The initiative of the Polish leadership bears witness to the active efforts aimed at expanding the process of reaching a national consensus in the country, and of joining forces in the name of implementating transformations in the political and economic sectors for the benefit of the people.

Negotiations Continue

LD2708153188 Moscow TASS in English 1411 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Warsaw August 27 TASS—The Polish leadership continues vigorous actions to deepen national concord, to pool the efforts to make transformations in the political and economic areas to the benefit of the people.

The news agency PAP transmitted a statement by Czeslaw Kiszczak, chairman of the Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic for the Observance of Law, Public Order and Discipline, to the effect that he is authorized to hold a meeting with representatives of various public circles and work collectives. [passage omitted]

Though unlawful strikes at a number of enterprises in Poland ended, a tense situation persists today. Representatives of the administration continue the efforts to settle the conflicts at the Szczecin port. Negotiations were held with representatives of the strikers at the mines "July Manifesto", "Jastszembe" and "the 30th Anniversary of the Polish People's Republic". But progress at the negotiations has not yet been achieved for which the organizers of the strikes and instigators from clandestine groups are to blame. Members of the technical and rescue services, risking their lives, try to eliminate a dangerous situation in the mine "30th Anniversary of the Polish People's Republic" where there is still a danger of a methane explosion and fire. The danger of cave-ins enhanced at two other mines where strikes go on.

Part of the work collective of the Gdansk shipyards continues an unlawful strike. Work for the construction of only two vessels, for the USSR and Finland, is underway there. Part of collectives of a number of other shipyards of the city and of the Gdansk port are on strike. Acts of blackmail with regard to workers who do not support strikes were mentioned with concern at a meeting of the presidium of the federation of unions of the shipbuilding industry. These persons are not allowed to work normally, to enter the territory of enterprises or leave it. Particular harm is caused by the attempts to take advantage of discontent and social tension for the achievement of political aims.

TV Reviews Situation

LD2708210988 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Good evening, comrades. I will begin the international section of our program with developments in Poland. One cannot fail to notice that in the last few

days, strikes at that country's enterprises and mines have met with obvious enthusiasm in certain Western quarters. For example, THE WASHINGTON POST wrote unequivocally 2 days ago: The strikers need to disrupt everyday life in order to succeed. This means shops should be closed and public transport should come to a halt. You must agree that this sounds like incitement. Two hours ago we spoke with our correspondent, Yuriy Ulyanov:

[Begin Ulyanov recording] What is happening today in Poland? The situation in this country is complex. Strikes continue; three mines, Szczecin port, and the Gdansk shipyards are on strike. What is typical about these strikes? They are "occupational" in nature, as they put it here. The thing is that those on strike, although they are a minority, not only do not allow those who want to work to enter their workplaces, but they also keep rescue teams away from mines. And here is the result: Today coal ignited spontaneously at a mine and there was an explosion of methane there. There have been no reports of loss of life yet, but it is absolutely clear that the lives of the rescue team are in danger.

At the same time, one must say that a general relaxation of the situation in the country is evident. This is because while a couple of days ago 11 mines were on strike, some enterprises have now ended their strikes.

In this situation, the eighth plenum of the PZPR Central Committee opened today in Warsaw. Wojciech Jaruzelski gave the opening speech, then Wladislav Baka, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, presented a report on behalf of the Politburo. In his report, he analyzed the situation that had taken shape in the country and mapped out some specific guidelines for the future. What kind of report was this? In fact, it was a program for Poland for the next year and for the following years. Wladislav Baka outlined a very strict framework for implementing economic reform. He said there was no alternative to reform, and that the question today is: the Polish economy—to be or not to be? There was a constructive, open, and businesslike conversation at the plenum.

The plenum will continue work tomorrow. Everyone in Poland pins great hopes on the plenum and believes that life will soon return to normal. [end recording]

Striking Mine Returns to Work

LD2708210388 Moscow TASS in English 2138 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Warsaw August 27 TASS—A strike at the mine named after the 30th anniversary of Poland located in one of the three remaining centres of illegal strikes in the coal basin of the Katowice area has come to an end.

The strikers voluntarily left the territory of the mine at 20.45 tonight because of the fire that broke out there and the threat of a methane explosion, as well as in connection with the reaching of agreement between the management of the mine and the striking miners, the PAP news agency reports.

Emergency teams are working at a depth of 580 m. Their task is to neutralize the explosive concentration of the mixture of the air and methane. It was impossible to use in the course of the operation the highly effective "gas" preparation and other technical facilities brought to the mine shaft a few hours ago because the only ventilation channel was blocked by a group of strikers.

'Extremists' Urging Strikers

LD2808153788 Moscow TASS in English 1459 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Warsaw August 28 TASS—After prolonged efforts of the management and the pressure exerted on organizers of the illegal action by a major part of the labour collective a strike ended Saturday at the mine named after the 30th Anniversary of the Polish People's Republic, in the Katowice region. The situation taking shape there was rather complicated: The concentration of methane in coal-faces reached a dangerous level, which could cause explosion at any moment. Its consequences for the furture of the mine would be impossible to predict. Despite all that, the organizers of the strike hampered the work of emergency teams sent to the mine. After the strikers left the territory of the mine the work was started immediately there to eliminate danger.

Under the pressure of organizers of the strikes—extremists from underground groups—several hundred people still refuse to leave the territory of the two remaining mines where the strike continues, the "July Manifesto" and "Jastrzebie".

A spokesman for the Ministry of the Internal Affairs of Poland refuted the rumours spread by Western news agencies to the effect that force had been allegedly used to stop strikes at a number of mines and industrial enterprises. He said that militia units were rigidly guarding from the outside the industrial enterprises where strikes were going on. Their purpose is to ensure order and tranquility, to stop attempted provocations and other illegal actions, to protect the state property. Thus, the attempted plunder and smuggling, as well as the penetration of the industrial enterprises by strangers carrying instigatory leaflets were curbed. In a number of cases the militia protected those who wanted to work and for this reason were subjected to various kinds of pressure on the part of the strikers. The spokesman for the Ministry of the Internal Affairs emphasized that the law-enforcement units had never resorted to methods of direct pressure and had not injured anyone.

The social situation continues to be tense in the Baltic Sea coast because of the irreconcilable stand assumed by the organizers of the strike at talks with the management. Part of the workers of the Szczecin and Gdansk ports, as well as of Gdansk shipyards, continue the strike. Extremists from underground groups are going on with their broad campaign aimed at making workers of the Stalowa Wola metallurgical plant continue the strike. Part of the labour collective of the Stalowa Wola and of a number of other industrial enterprises are on strike.

Second Mine Ends Strike

LD2808193588 Moscow TASS in English 1908 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Warsaw August 28 TASS—An illegal strike has ended at the Jastrzebie mine, another of the mines of the Katowice coal basin. After negotiations between the management and representatives of the miners' collective that went on strike an agreement on stopping the strike was reached.

Thus, the strikers instigated by extremists from underground groups are now holding only one mine, the July Manifesto.

PZPR Central Committee Plenum Opens in Warsaw

LD2708092188 Moscow TASS in English 0840 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Warsaw August 27 TASS—A scheduled plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party has opened here today. It will analyse the socio-political and economic situation in the country and the party's immediate objectives, the PAP agency said.

Jaruzelski Addresses Plenum

LD2708123188 Moscow TASS in English 1225 GMT 27 Aug 88

["Plenum of Polish United Workers Party CC Central Committee—Update-1"—TASS headline]

[Text] Warsaw August 27 TASS—The [PZPR Central Committee plenum] meeting was opened by Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the Polish United Workers Party Central Committee. The main subject of the plenum, he noted, is a continuation and deepening of the analysis of the urgent problems of the country's life, which was started at the preceding meeting of the party's Central Committee.

A report on the socio-economic situation and its improvement was delivered by Wladislav Baka, member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the Polish United Workers Party Central Committee.

Baka, Czyrek Address Group

LD2708151988 Moscow TASS in English 1257 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Warsaw August 27 TASS—The reporter recalled that one of the causes of the deterioration of social tensions in the country, of the strikes is the economic situation in the Republic, in particular, the fact that the main aim of a revision carried out this year of the prices and incomes have not been achieved, as well as the population's discontent with the state of the home market. W. Baka set forth a programme for specific measures for a general improvement of the economy, of containing inflation and improving the supply of the basic commodities for the population.

A report "on broading dialogue and accord," an analysis of the political situation and urgent problems involved in the development of the political system has been delivered by Jozef Czyrek, member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party. He declared for resolute actions for a further deepening of the process of socialist renovation. The Polish United Workers Party invariably holds the stand of honouring the Polish socialist pluralism, yet it will not agree to a pluralism of confrontation. The party's watchword is stake [as received] on supporters of reforms capable of accelerating them, Jozef Cyzrek emphasised.

Gorbachev Sends Honecker 'Ultimatum' on Retiring

LD2908091188 London DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 29 Aug 88 p 6

[Article by Daniel Johnson in Bonn]

[Text] The future of East Germany's aging leader, Herr Honecker, one of the last of the Warsaw Pact's "old guard" who came to power under Stalin, is in doubt following an ultimatum last week from Moscow.

Mr Vadim Medvedev, secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee and a key figure in the Soviet leadership, paid Herr Honecker a "friendly visit" last Wednesday on the eve of the East German leader's 76th birthday.

Mr Medvedev, 59, is not a radical perestroyka and glasnost enthusiast, but a subordinate of Mr Gorbachev's hard-line rival, Mr Yegor Ligachev. But he is a loyal supporter of the pro-Gorbachev line agreed by the party recently.

He was thus an especially suitable choice to convey a letter from Mr Gorbachev to Herr Honecker, in which the Soviet leader is likely to have made clear Moscow's dissatisfaction with East Berlin's resistance to his policies.

Herr Fred Oldenburg, a leading West German expert, told the newspaper, DIE WELT, that Mr Medvedev delivered an ultimatum to Herr Honecker: By the next East German party congress in spring 1991, a new leader must be well established.

Herr Oldenburg expects Herr Honecker to be forced out of his post as party general secretary not later than 1990, after a transitional phase in which he expects the Dresden party chief, Herr Hans Modrow, 60, to emerge as Moscow's preferred successor.

This would certainly dismay Herr Honecker, who has been grooming Herr Egon Krenz for the succession almost since his own ousting of Walter Ulbricht in 1971.

Herr Krenz, 51, is younger, much better known and senior in rank to Herr Modrow. He also has a powerful party base.

None of these obstacles would deter Mr Gorbachev, however, who has ostentatiously snubbed Herr Krenz since taking over, and is determined to have a cooperative ally in East Berlin similar to Mr Karoly Grosz in Hungary.

The Soviet leader is exasperated with the poor image East Germany has in the West, despite its relative prosperity and easy access to Western markets.

His deliberate cultivating of Bonn, with the prospect of harnessing West German economic strength for Soviet perestroyka, will culminate in October with the first of two summits with Chancellor Kohl.

Mr Gorbachev is well aware that Bonn regards the East German record on human rights, the environment and other issues as unsatisfactory, and will be looking to Moscow to put pressure on Herr Honecker's regime.

The question of the Berlin Wall, on which President Reagan has placed considerable emphasis, is also likely to embarrass Moscow unless a more "liberal" image can be presented by East Berlin.

Ceausescu, Hungary's Grosz To Meet 28 Aug

LD2608203088 Moscow TASS in English 1952 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Budapest August 26 TASS—Karoly Grosz, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and chairman of the Council of Ministers of Hungary, and Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and chairman of the State Council of Romania, will get together for a working meeting in Arad on August 28 in accordance with mutual agreement, the MTI news agency reports.

Talyzin Greets Romanian Minister Andrei

LD2808213388 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] A Romanian delegation headed by Andrei, candidate member of the Political Executive Committee of the RCP Central Committee and deputy prime minister, arrived in Moscow today to take part in the opening of the national exhibition of the Socialist Republic of Romania. At the airport, the delegation was met by Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and other officials.

Reader Urges 'Renewal of Socialism' in CSSR

PM2808175588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Aug 88 First Edition p 5

[Reader's letter under "Return Call" rubric: "Reader...in Support"; date of letter not given]

[Text] Dear comrade editor! I and many of my friends were very interested to read the documents of the 19th CPSU Conference. I follow events in your country day by day. The CPSU's energetic steps to restructure all aspects of the life of Soviet society inspire hope for a renewal of socialism in the CSSR, too. In Czechoslovakia, we also have to put an end to many shortcomings that are now justly criticized in the USSR. In our country, too, we have to start to get back to the revolutionary legacy of V.I. Lenin. It is precisely from this viewpoint that the ideas of restructuring, glasnost, and the democratization of Soviet society acquire international significance.

We know that the restructuring and renewal process will also introduce much that is radically new into relations among the socialist community countries. Economic cooperation in particular is improving. Progressive forms of economic cooperation are becoming established—direct links between labor collectives, production specialization and coproduction, and joint enterprises. We support these changes.

I wish the entire Soviet people many successes on the path they have chosen and hope that it will become our joint, common path.

[Signed] Professor Miroslav Tucek, Prague

West Europe

Shevardnadze To Visit Denmark 20-21 Sep

PM2608120788 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 25 Aug 88 p 4

[Lars Kjolbye report: "Soviet Foreign Minister To Visit"]

[Excerpt] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will pay an official visit to Denmark next month. He will arrive in Copenhagen on 20 September and will leave

late on 21 September, Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen told BERLINGSKE TIDENDE. From Denmark Shevardnadze will travel to the UN General Assembly in New York. [passage omitted]

Finnish Parliamentary Delegation Concludes Talks

Meets With Demichev

LD2708043088 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1611 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 26 Aug (TASS)—In the atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding traditional to Soviet-Finnish dialogue, a detailed conversation has taken place in the Kremlin on the state of and prospects for the development of Soviet-Finnish relations and on certain central problems of the situation in Europe and throughout the world. Petr Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, met with a delegation of the Finnish parliament led by its speaker Matti Ahde today.

The good-neighborliness of the two countries, it was noted in the conversation, has become convincing evidence of the abiding significance of the Soviet-Finnish treaty of 1948, which opened up paths to the establishment of fundamentally new relations between states with different social systems. These relations, it was noted, can rightly be regarded as a model of cooperation between countries based on the new political thinking. The further development of cooperation on this basis is represented by the joint contribution of the Soviet Union and Finland to building a "common European home" and to progress toward a nuclear-free and nonviolent world.

The sides analyzed the experience of cooperation between parliamentarians of the two countries in implementing the initiatives advanced by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in Murmansk, which are geared to reducing military confrontation in the north and creating a zone of peace and mutually advantageous cooperation in this region. They also analyzed cooperation in implementing the proposals voiced by President Mauno Koivisto of Finland for building confidence in the maritime areas of the north.

The interlocutors expressed satisfaction with the level of interparliamentary dialogue. The need for a constant search for new forms of contacts on the part of parliamentarians also was noted. This will promote further consolidation of good-neighborliness and enriched bilateral and international cooperation.

On the same day, a working meeting of Soviet and Finnish parliamentarians took place at the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Adopts Communique, Departs

LD2808034488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Today a delegation of Finnish parliamentarians led by its chairman, Ahde, which has been in our country on an official visit at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, left the Soviet Union. A joint communique was adopted at the visit's conclusion. It notes that during the meetings and conversations, which were held in a friendly and frank atmosphere, the sides exchanged information on the activity of the legislative bodies of the two countries, discussed topical problems of the present international situation, and examined certain questions of bilateral Soviet-Finnish relations. During their examination of international problems, the two sides noted the coincidence or proximity of the stands of the USSR and Finland on the issues of curbing the arms race, disarmament, and strengthening trust and mutual understanding between peoples.

Adhe, speaker of the parliament, passed on an invitation for a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet to pay an official visit to Finland. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. The joint communique will be published tomorrow in IZVESTIYA.

Official Arrives in Finland for Party Anniversary

LD2608230188 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1846 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Turku, 26 Aug (TASS)—Anatoliy Gerasimov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Leningrad Gorkom, arrived here today to attend events devoted to the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Finland.

Talks With Norway on Environment Cooperation End

LD2708015388 Moscow TASS in English 2316 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Oslo August 26 TASS—By TASS correspondent Stanislav Tikhomirov:

The session of the mixed Soviet-Norwegian commission on cooperation in the sphere of the environmental control ended its work here today. It was established in line with the agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway on cooperation in this sphere, which was signed last January during the Norwegian visit by Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Session participants examined organizational questions concerning the commission's activities and agreed the main areas and a working programme of cooperation for 1989-1990.

The protocol adopted on the results of the session's work points to a serious concern of the Soviet Union and Norway over the state of the environment on a global scale. The sides emphasized their commitment to the

main principles of the concept of international ecological security whose component part is the plan of concerted actions to settle pressing global issues, which is logically connected with findings and recommendations of the U.N. World Commission on Environmental Development. In the opinion of the Norwegian side, responsibility, on the whole, for ensuring ecological security should rest with the U.N. The idea of establishing in future a U.N. council for ecological security is being contemplated as a possible step to strengthen the role and importance of the international community in this sphere.

The sides agreed to single out cooperation on the problem of environmental pollution in Soviet-Norwegian frontier areas into a separate programme of cooperation, incorporating into it questions pertaining to pollution of air and frontier water bodies. It was decided to set up a working group to implement an agreed programme. The first meeting of the group is planned to be held late this year. A separate expert group will be charged with compiling a draft programme of monitoring border river waters and connected with them ecological systems so as to draft subsequent comprehensive measures for their protection. It was decided to examine pollution of Barents Sea waters, including interaction in case of accidental oil slicks, as an independent problem.

During the session there was a mutual exchange of information on ongoing, started and planned measures to decrease pollution of air and waters in border areas. Such an exchange of information will be conducted in future too. Besides, the two sides agreed to arrange a meeting of experts early next year to draft proposals on using advanced equipment and technology for purification of gases and sewage under northern conditions. Additional consultations will be held on questions requiring additional agreements.

Mutual agreement was reached to hold, at the initial period of cooperation, the commission's session more often than once in two years in the interests of the earliest start of work. Another session is scheduled to be held in the Soviet Union in April 1989.

Latin America & Caribbean

D'Escoto Says Nicaragua-U.S. Relations 'Tense'

LD2708211688 Moscow TASS in English 1212 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] New Delhi August 27 TASS—Nicaragua and India highly appreciate the role played by the Non-Alignment Movement, come out from common positions for strengthening peace on earth, developing cooperation of the newly- liberated states of Asia, Africa and Latin America in the fight for national independence, against the hostile intrigues of imperialism and reaction. A statement to this effect was made at a press conference here by Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaragua's minister for foreign affairs, who was on a brief visit in India.

Touching upon the talks with India's Minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao, he stressed that they covered questions pertaining to the forthcoming meeting in Nicosia of foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement and the situation in Central America. The participants in the meeting said that the Non-Alignment Movement is making an important contribution to the fight in defence of the sovereignty of the newly-liberated states, helps towards ensuring their independent policy in the international arena. "Nicaragua is in the state of war, which was unleashed by the enemies encroaching upon her independence," the minister said. The cause of the aggression is the refusal of the Nicaraguan people to yield to the pressure of the USA which is out to attach to their country for ever the status of a colony of the United States. As a result of the eight-year-old American aggression more than 50,000 Nicaraguan citizens were killed, the Republic's economy has suffered a damage of 12 billion dollars. At present, he stressed, relations between Nicaragua and the USA remain quite tense. Washington is using all possible methods to prevent the attainment of the agreement on ultimate ceasefire between the Sandinistas and the contras. Trying to destabilise the situation in Nicaragua, the USA has stepped up the anti-Nicaraguan propaganda campaign. The CIA is taking an active part in it. It is responsible for the psychological and other acts of sabotage against the Republic.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister stressed the determination of his people to carry on the fight in face of the incessant hostile intrigues of the USA and its accomplices in Central America.

TASS Guatemala Office Moved to Costa Rica

PA2708134188 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The Soviet news agency TASS, which was temporarily closed following a terrorist attack, has been permanently closed. Correspondent Aleksandr Trushin had returned to Guatemala to ask for security guarantees, but these were not granted. In view of this, Trushin decided to transfer TASS facilities to Costa Rica. His personal belongings are being sent to the USSR. The TASS news agency has been permanently closed in our country.

Political & Social

Stricter Procedure for Conferring Awards Noted

LD2208130188 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1108 GMT 22 Aug 88

["Procedure for Conferring Awards Has Been Changed in the USSR"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow 22 Aug (TASS)—Ivan Petrov, a TASS commentator, writes:

At the demand of the public, the procedure for conferring orders in the USSR has been changed. Three documents—one adopted by the CPSU Central Committee and the two others by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet—which make the awards procedure more democratic will appear in the central newspapers tomorrow.

As has already been stated, the changes have been introduced at the insistence of the working people. Glasnost has given people the opportunity to confront the leadership of the country with matters which were not formerly discussed. One such matter is the devaluation of state awards which, in the Brezhnev era, were generously handed out on birthdays and anniversaries. There arose the practice of conferring awards on dozens and even hundreds of people according to 5-year plan fulfillment results. These awards were made according to a quota system: so many engineers, so many workers, so many women.... By no means was each recipient's true contribution always taken into account.

At the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference the public's demands were deemed fair. And now, rather less than 2 months after it ended, a new procedure for conferring awards has been drawn up.

The main point of the changes is democracy in forwarding candidates for awards. If previously this was frequently done behind the scenes with the participation of a narrow group of leading officials, examination of the matter will now begin on a obligatory basis in the labor collective of the candidate for the award. The decision of the collective will become the point of departure for further procedures. Moreover, every labor collective is entitled independently to initiate representations for the conferment of state awards on any of its members. A similar right is granted to all voluntary organizations.

It has been decided in the future not to conduct mass awards, including those on the results of the 5-year plans. The conferment of awards at a period of labor activity in connection with jubilees has been abolished.

The possibility of the same person repeatedly receiving the highest merited titles—Hero of the Soviet Union (for military exploits) and Hero of Socialist Labor (for outstanding labor achievements)—has been abolished. The practice of erecting bronze busts during the lifetime of those who have received these titles more than once is abolished.

Stringent criteria have been introduced for the receipt of the highest orders in the country—the Order of Lenin and the Order of the October Revolution. It has been established that a person can be forwarded for a new state award for labor achievements, as a rule, no sooner than 5 years after receipt of the previous one.

Moreover, 15 professional merited titles of the USSR have been introduced—People's Teacher of the USSR, People's Doctor of the USSR, Merited Industrial Worker, Merited Agricultural Worker, etc—which will be conferred for high professional skill.

Ukrainian Grain Production Minister Retires

AU2908093788 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 24 Aug 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] The Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has relieved Comrade I.I. Shmatolyan of his duties as Ukrainian SSR minister of grain products in connection with his retirement on pension.

Replacement Appointed

AU2908095988 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 24 Aug 88 p 1

["A Decree by the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] The Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves to appoint Comrade Nikolay Prokofiyevich Kompanets as Ukrainian SSR minister of grain products.

[Signed] V. Shevchenko, chairman, and N. Khomenko, secretary of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

The city of Kiev, 23 August 1988

Born in 1937, N.P. Kompanets has been a CPSU member since 1963. He graduated from the Melitopol Institute for the Mechanization of Agriculture and is a mechanical engineer.

He began his career as a kolkhoz mechanical engineer, and then became chief engineer, director of grain reception centers, manager of a rayon agricultural technology association, and deputy chairman of an oblast agricultural technology association. From 1977 to 1984 he was chief of the Vinnitsa Oblast grain products administration. In 1984 he was appointed Ukrainian SSR first

deputy minister of procurement and in March 1986 he was appointed Ukrainian SSR first deputy minister of grain products. He has been awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor, the Order of the Badge of Honor, and two medals.

Odessa Region Official Relieved of Post
LD2708202588 Moscow TASS in English 1927 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Odessa August 27 TASS—TASS correspondent Georgiy Vorotnyuk reports:

Anatoliy Greul had to leave his post of first secretary of the Balta District Party Committee of the Odessa region (the Ukraine) even before a regular regional party conference which decides personnel problems. A decision of the plenary meeting of the district committee says that he was relieved of his duties for ignoring the principles of democratism.

The participants in the plenary meeting recalled numerous cases when Anatoliy Greul unjustifiably interfered in the activity of managerial organizations, when he was striving to ensure that his proteges fill elective posts. When collective farmers of the village Peschannaya did not elected Ivan Pchelinskiy chairman of the collective farm for another term because of his rudeness and voluntarism, Greul attempted to install him as chairman of the newly formed collective farm in the nearby village, Gerbino. But in the atmosphere when true self-government of work collectives is established, people refused to put up with the bureaucratic dictat. At a meeting held fully in accordance with the regulations of the collective farm, peasants of the village Gerbino did not put confidence in Pchelinskiy and elected a worthier worker as chairman of their collective farm.

"The maturity of party executives is now judged by their ability to conduct the party policy by methods of conviction," said Nikolay Snegirev, secretary of the Odessa regional committee of the CPSU. "And if an executive does not have these qualities or, moreover, has compromised himself, the Communists use their right to recall him from elective party bodies. The case in the Balta District is not the only existing confirmation of this. More than 400 members of party committees and bureaus were recalled from their posts in the city of Odessa of late. There are quite a few such examples in other cities and in rural districts. The demand of the 19th Conference of the CPSU to give up command methods of work and to stringently observe democratic principles is regarded by party organizations in the region as their present task.

Uzbek Plenum Discusses Food Supplies
NC2908080888 Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek 1600 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee held a plenum in Tashkent yesterday to examine the work carried out by the republic's party, soviet, and economic organs to improve the supply of food products to the people in compliance with the decisions adopted by the 19th all-union party conference.

Comrade [name indistinct], member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, participated in the work of the plenum. Problems concerning the intensive development of agro-industrial production and difficulties in the effort made to [words indistinct] and self-financing were discussed during the talks he had with kolkhoz, sovkhoz, and agro-industrial complex officials in Samarkand and Tashkent Oblasts.

Bazarova on 'Improved' Work in Turkmen SSR
NC2908081888 Baku International Service in Azeri 1200 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Roza Bazarova, chairwoman of the Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has said that the era of reconstruction has improved the situation of the work carried out in the Turkmen SSR, a Central Asian republic. Bazarova was recently elected to her present office. Earlier, she served as chairwoman of the Turkmen SSR Council of Ministers Presidium and as foreign minister of the Turkmen SSR.

Addressing a news conference, Bazarova said that the number of [word indistinct] within the framework of the educational system have been significantly increased, a large number of water installations have been put into operation, and the construction of housing facilities has been broadened.

Commentary on Nagorno-Karabakh, Western Media
LD2808224288 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] We come now to our Sunday feature when one of our commentators takes up a listener's question, usually dealing with some topical political issue. I have here with me in the studio a letter from Mr Harold Sher in Clwyd, South Wales. In your letter, Mr Sher, you referred to the recent disturbances that have ocurred in Azerbaijan and the Baltic republics. You assert that these anti-Soviet outbreaks, as you call them, have been inspired by Western intelligence services—the CIA, etc.—and their agents, including foreign radio stations, etc. The strategy of the imperialists, you write, seems to be wishing to wreck the new reforms under way in the Soviet Union, and you want to know Radio Moscow's opinion of all this. Well, Mr Sher, we gave your letter to our commentator Dmitriy Kiselev to read, and after some thought and some time he's come up with the following reply:

Before answering your question, Mr Sher, I'd like to ask you to estimate to what extent the disturbances in Azerbaijan and the Baltic area could be regarded as anti-Soviet, because that's how you seem to see them and I think that it's under the influence of certain biased reports by Western news media. But the fact is that in

Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian region on the territory of Azerbiajan, people staged spontaneous demonstrations bearing the portraits of Lenin and Gorbachev, believing in the possibility of socialist restructuring. The marchers directly spoke out about their problems. They stated that the Armenians' national rights were being infringed upon in Karabakh and that the region's social and economic development considerably lagged behind that of Azerbaijan's average.

The dissatisfaction was justified, but the people were not coming out against socialism. They stated their opposition to the distortion of its principles. Now, if there were separatist sentiments in Karabakh they would be only against Azerbaijan, not against the Soviet Union. So what kind of anti-Sovietism can one speak of?

Well, as to the Baltic area, the street demonstrations in those republics had absolutely concrete reasons behind them. The people want that the program of reforms, mapped out by the Soviet Communist Party, be implemented without delay and that an honest view of history must triumph, and that there be a more serious approach to the ecological problem and a more careful attitude to the cultural traditions of small ethnic groups. These manifestations, too, are basically not of an anti-Soviet character and are quite constitutional. People are simply showing their readiness to personally support the ongoing changes and to speed them up even. It's hardly by chance that a popular front in support of perestroyka has been set up in Estonia. Also in that Soviet republic there is a club of socially active people.

Now, to what extent have the demonstrations in Azerbaijan and the Baltic area been incited by the CIA and other Western intelligence services and by foreign radio stations? Everything will be simple, indeed, if that could serve as an explanation. The CIA is a powerful organization, but even so it is unable to limit the number of Armenian grammar books in the schools of Karabakh, or deprive Armenians of the region of the possibility of having a television center, or slash the republic's investments in the social and economic development of the Armenian region on the territory of Azerbaijan.

The Voice of America is not a station of simpletons, but its staff is hardly able to build in the Baltic area big state-owned enterprises and thereby cause an influx of migrants from all over the Soviet Union. Neither can VOA organize elections to the city and republican bodies of Soviet Government in such a way as to have only one candidate appear on the ballot list. Yet all these are real problems, Mr Sher, and they are now being resolved, but it seems they were inspired, to use your word, from within. Although the Voice of Americas [as heard] might have and most likely have had some kind of influence, it's hard to estimate its scope, but it is a fact that during the events in Nagorno-Karabakh the Voice of America in its broadcasts in Azerbaijanian expressed sympathy for the Azerbaijanians, while in its broadcasts in Armenian it expressed admiration for the Armenians' staunchness. The Azerbiajanians were provided with the most irritating kind of information from Yerevan, while the Armenians were given descriptions of the Azerbaijanians' bloodthirstiness. Such a cross-spraying, so to say, could hardly enhance the search for interethnic compromise.

You point out, Mr Sher, that imperialism seems to want to wreck the reforms underway in the USSR. Whether that's really so or not I don't know. But it seems to me that our reforms and the new political thinking here is in the West's interests, too, because, after all, that all means greater Soviet predictability, a sensible disarmament, a dynamic economic partnership, a broad cultural exchange. On the other hand, one can suppose that some in the West don't want very much that socialism should successfully show alternative possibilities for social development. In a word, the changes in the USSR are evoking mixed feelings among the world's powers to be [as heard].

New SOVETAKAN AYASTAN Editor in Chief

NC2708092288 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Yerevan, 26 Aug, ARMENPRES—Shch. Davtyan, who is 50 years old, has been appointed by the Armenian SSR Communist Party Central Committee, the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers as editor in chief of SOVETAKAN AYASTAN. He is replacing E. Araksman-Manukyan, who (?also) was chairman of the Armenian SSR State Radio and Television Committee. [passage omitted]

From 1979 until his recent post, Shch. Davtyan was first party secretary of the Sisian region. He is a deputy member of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet and he recently participated in the 19th all-union party conference in Moscow as a representative of the Armenian SSR.

Public Opinion Center Official Interviewed

LD2808202988 Moscow World Service in English 0210 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Interview with Boris Grushin, deputy head of a national center for studying public opinion, by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—questions read by announcer; Grushin remarks recorded in Russian with superimposed English translation]

[Text] [Announcer] A national center for studying public opinion has been set up in this country, headed by Academician Tatyana Zaslavskaya. Our correspondent has interviewed the deputy head of the center, Boris Grushin.

[Grushin] The center was organized to help solve the task of the country's social development in an atmosphere of open discussion and democracy. Our society has taken a long time to realize the need for this kind of

research. After Lenin's death, during Stalin's personality cult, sociological studies were practically proscribed and attempts to revive them were actively opposed by the authorities. Sociology was pronounced a bourgeois science.

[Announcer] Is the setting up of your center a step towards democratization?

[Grushin] Oh, must certainly, it reflects the wish by the country's leadership to keep up a dialogue with the population, to study the needs and moods of its various groups and strata. Though our public opinion center confines its studies to social and economic issues, it can serve as an important element in the current turbulent process of democratization.

[Announcer] And how do you imagine a full-scale system of public opinion studies in this country?

[Grushin] I'd like to see a three-tier system. One level can include several national centers like ours, of a more or less specialized character. On another level we can have regional or departmental sociological centers set up in large cities, regions, industrial companies, ministries—particularly those that administer the production of consumer goods and running services—in the departments of trade, agriculture, and light industry too. And a third level to comprise a network of public opinion services at large enterprises, offices, and organizations. Any society needs self-scrutiny to take correct decisions in the interests of the majority of the people.

[Announcer] And will you make the results of your studies public?

[Grushin] By all means. We intend to publish a journal for the results of our research containing commentaries and discussions. We'll also run a monthly information bulletin. Our center has adopted rules defining our work as open, public, and aimed at a dialogue with the population.

[Announcer] You've been talking about your immediate plans, and in the 5 months of your work you have already launched sample polls and published their results, haven't you?

[Grushin] We began by sample polls on elections of industrial management in the conditions of economic autonomy. This practice has been already introduced at some enterprises, besides, before the end of the year we are to hold polls on the bill on pensions which is to be submitted for nationwide discussion and on the projected price reform. We are preparing more polls on the burning issues of housing, food and consumer good supplies, and on the campaign against alcoholism. The results of the first poll, published in the press and presented to the Soviet trade union leadership and the State Committee for Labor and Social Affairs, were quite remarkable. From 44 to 55 percent of those polled supported elections of managers, only from seven to 12 percent definitely opposed them. The higher the rank the more skeptical is the attitude. Various managers were 55 percent against the practice, rank and file workers only 8 percent against. On the whole the society is for competition, for elections, that is, for the democratic principles of our life.

Dual Language Service Held in Tbilisi Church

LD2908104388 Moscow TASS in English 1020 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Tbilisi August 29 TASS—TASS correspondent Paata Tsintsadze reports:

The first public service has been held in the Russian and Georgian languages at the Church of Saint Michael of Tver, a Russian parish in Tbilisi, the capital of Soviet Georgia.

"There are many Georgians among the parishioners, and I want them to understand the prayer better," the TASS correspondent was told by Zurab, the church's 38-year-old dean, who conducted the service after a mass on the day of the Assumption of the Holy Virgin, yesterday.

"The fates of the Russian and Georgian Orthodox Churches have got closely intertwinned over the past few centuries. We have common history, one homeland and one future," the prior went on to say.

The five-million Georgia [as received] inhabited by many nationalities representing nearly all religious creeds. Georgian and Russian Orthodox cathedrals and churches are adjacent to the Catholic castle, and the synagogue stands next to the mosque.

Ukrainian Jew Comments on Language Issue

AU2608144688 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 21 Aug 88 p 1

[Reader's letter: "We Hinder It Ourselves"]

[Text] I have been subscribing to RADYANSKA UKRAINA for more than 40 years. I appreciate very much the fact that the newspaper has, at least in recent times, touched upon problems concerning the usage of the Ukrainian language. I myself live in an ethnically mixed town, Berdichev. The population here is ethnically mixed. Certainly, Ukrainians are in the majority, but there are also quite a few Russians, Poles, Jews, and representatives of other nationalities. There are various religious denominations exercising their rites and ceremonies. But people live harmoniously, at least I have not heard about any nationality conflicts.

Unlike in the cities of the Donets basin, people in Berdichev speak, of course, Ukrainian. But it is hightly deplorable that some inhabitants shun their native language. Our rayon newspaper discussed this issue and featured responses from the readers.

My ethnicity is Jewish. I have been living among Ukrainian families and attended a Ukrainian-language school. I am fluent both in Ukrainian and Russian, but consider Ukrainian my native language. I not only speak but also think the language. While on a mission beyond the borders of the Ukraine, I even notice that I am getting tired of constantly thinking and speaking Russian (I am simply not used to it).

But that is enough about myself. What, therefore, can we all do for the Ukrainian language? Should we have more classes in Ukrainian; hold more meetings with men of letters; or perhaps organize courses for improving the knowledge of the Ukrainian language? Such courses should be attended primarily by teachers, educators from kindergartens, and leaders of cultural and enlightening establishments. Because the language of this category of specialist has become very poor, even macaronic. One rarely hears them speaking idiomatically!

It is very painful to watch television reporters who start an interview in Ukrainian, but then are forced to change over to Russian because the interviewee is reluctant to cooperate with them.

Outwardly nothing seems to hinder the development of the Ukrainian language. Actually we ourselves hinder it. Certainly, the scientific-technological revolution has been erecting quite a few barriers. But I remember the times when leaflets disseminating frontline experience, collective agreements, and instructions were published at the plant only in Ukrainian. Nothing happened and all the people understood them. Then why do we now publish everything only in Russian? This list could be extended.

I am thankful to the editorial board for publishing materials in defense of the Ukrainian language, and I am looking forward to further publications.

[Signed] Sincerely yours, Furman, engineer.

Hydrofoil Accident Leaves 1 Dead, 11 Injured

LD2608183488 Moscow TASS in English 1804 GMT 26 Aug 88

["Urgent—Hydrofoil Accident on Irtysh River, Captain Dead"—TASS headline]

[Text] Omsk August 26 TASS—A hydrofoil rammed into the bank of the Irtysh River, Siberia, at full speed on August 25, wounding 11 passengers and crew members.

The cause of the accident seems to be the sudden death of the vessel's standby captain.

Correction to Report on 23 Aug Lithuanian Rally

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Further on 23 Aug Rally in Lithuania" published in the 25 August Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pages 21-23:

Page 22

Column one, paragraph one, line one should read: "...opened by the musicologist Vytautas Landsbergis, an..." (correcting title)

Paragraph four, line four should read: "...our life. Historian Gediminas Rudis expressed his desire..." (correcting name here and throughout item)

Page 23

Column one, paragraph one, line one should read: "[Announcer] Father Edmundas Atkociunas, consecrated but recently..." (correcting name here and throughout item)

Paragraph two, line two should read: "...the film director Arunas Zabriunas, and other (?outstanding)..." (correcting name)

Paragraph three, line one should read: "The composer Julius Juzeliunas, who spoke in..." (correcting name here and throughout item)

Paragraph five, line five should read: "...in the meeting was Valdas Adamkus, a United Lithuanian living in Chicago. He is the..." (supplying indistinct words)

Briefs

Commercial Bank Opens

A commercial bank has opened on a kolkhoz. Mikhail Zadnik, a young driver, was the first client. The bank opened on his kolkhoz, the Leninskaya Iskra, in Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast with no fuss or red tape at all. Mikhail obtained 5,000 rubles to finish building his own house. According to the regulations laid down by the board, the bank grants credits for 3 to 5 years or for a few months. Between 1 and 8 percent of the sum granted is charged for the service. Young families and new settlers get the greatest advantages. Collective farm cooperative members engaged in growing grain crops and cattle may also resort to help from the bank. In time, the kolkhoz bank will also render services to other citizens and organizations. [Text] [*LD2908015988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Aug 88*]

Giant Gold Nugget Discovered

Gold prospectors at the Seligdar artel of the Aldanzoloto combine have had a rare stroke of luck. While washing sand they found a nugget the likes of which had not been seen here for dozens of years. They named it after Tsara Nikiforovna Chetveronogova, a veteran of the Aldan gold extraction industry, now in retirement. The unique work of nature weighs 2.5 kg. [Text] [*LD2708025688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Aug 88*]

Economic

Economist Interviewed on Price Increases

LD2708211988 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1855 GMT 26 Aug 88

[From the "View" program; interview with Andrey Aleksandrovich Nuykin, an economist and an "eminent writer on topical affairs," by Sergey Lomakin in the studio]

[Text] [Lomakin] Let us meet the guest of our program, Andrey Aleksandrovich Nuykin, an eminent writer on topical affairs, an economist, and evidently well known now to our viewers and readers because of his article, "Ideals or Interests?" which was published in issues No 1 and 2 of NOVYY MIR this year. Andrey Aleksandrovich, most Soviet families are in the habit of discussing their financial affairs in the kitchen, so let us keep to that tradition and talk about the forthcoming price rises here in our own kitchen.

[Nuykin] Not just money matters, but food matters as well. Currently there are enough topics that have become painful and that have accumulated for our all-union kitchen that it is indeed worth talking about them. A really complicated situation has now arisen in our country in connection with what is being called the price reform, and in many respects it is somewhat mysterious. We are aware that somewhere behind the scenes an engine that was started up long ago is at work, working out this so-called reform, and what is more, is working it out without any regard whatsoever for what we are saying, what we are arguing against, what we are seeking.

But it is possible to understand why that stratum that we call the managers who resist things—I would like to stress that, because not all managers resist things—why they have an interest in the price reform option that one perceives is taking shape behind the scenes. For them it is very important to shift their own lack of talent in running the economy onto the shoulders of the working people, onto your shoulders and my shoulders, and to go on living for a bit longer without having to bear any responsibility and without giving in in any way. That is to say, as long as the people pay the fixed sum for these goods, the prices must be raised; and since production, you understand, is a monopoly in our country—an archmonopoly, even—then they will simply pay whatever is asked: No one is going to be able to slip out of the country anywhere to buy a piece of meat or a bit of butter. They are going to pay; that is natural. If you think about it, the choice is fairly severe—either the shelves will be bare, or the stomachs will be empty.

[Lomakin] At the 19th party conference Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said that raising prices is nevertheless essential, but that it will take place without any damage to the well-being of the working people.

[Nuykin] That is the goal: I do not yet see the way toward it that has been worked out. It is being worked out behind the scenes somewhere. Gorbachev talks about the need for price reform; he does not talk about raising prices. However, we observe that when economists are talking, these words are gradually substituted. It is simply absurd to talk about raising prices and maintaining the living standards of the population. How will that be achieved? Because this talk about compensation, well, in the first place it is constantly accompanied with provisos to the effect that those whose living standards are currently low have to be compensated first. This means that they will be offered compensation in some measure, but others will be offered almost nothing. This is what we are taught by past experience.

In the second place, we are talking about compensation for meat and dairy products, whereas prices are being put up—as can be seen from all plans and proposals—literally for everything, and there no compensation at all is being envisaged. What is taking place and what will take place inevitably is simply the lowering of the value of the ruble. It will hit everyone: It means lowering the value of the thousands of millions of rubles that are constantly being referred to, which are in savings bank accounts, and this is money that has been earned honestly in the main; people do not usually keep what they have stolen in savings bank accounts.

What do I think we should be thinking about now in the first place? Under what conditions is the price reform being prepared? It is being prepared under conditions that are far from favorable for you and me, for restructuring, and for this reform itself. If we again remember the trip that has just been made to Kamchatka, a lot of meetings took place there in the collectives, with workers, with the intelligentsia, and one feels a kind of dissatisfaction, a kind of irritation that has built up and which could even be vented against the very idea of restructuring, because people have grown tired of waiting for the good results that were announced at the very beginning, that were promised, and that were to have been obtained as a result of restructuring. We see how some legislative acts are being sabotaged, we see how the economic reform is simply being sabotaged. In MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA recently you and I no doubt read an article that said that last year the procuracy in Moscow started to sort things out and established that all of our storage facilities were filled with old fruit and vegetables from last year that were almost rotten, and meanwhile there was nothing in the shops. Now the shops have to be filled. All those storage facilities are full and the same thing is occurring again this year.

[Lomakin] What we need, perhaps, is a heavy and a firm hand. There are many people who say that.

[Nuykin] You have to understand that when they try now to oppose restructuring with a firm hand what they have in mind is not what you and I are saying now. They think that is enough talk about democracy, that is

enough talk about economic management methods; what is needed is once again taking things into firm hands, suppressing this glasnost, breaking up all these demonstrations and meetings, and imposing order; that is to say, they want to place obstacles in the way of the development of democracy. I hope that you and I are talking about something else, about the fact that we have to observe the law within a democratic framework. If a decision has been adopted, then it has to be carried out. If someone has become a thief, then he has to be tried. But look at the press now, there is unending indignation on this score: Medunov, who became a world-class criminal, I would say, brought shame on the country by what took place and what was done. Well, he has a pension, all his awards. Then there are Kunayev and Bodyul, people who have stained themselves so much that 50 years would not be enough to wash them clean if someone were to try to do so. But they continue to exist completely without punishment and to prosper. And we are only naming the big fish. How many medium-sized ones also remain unpunished? It is not a question of being hard on them, it is not a matter of bloodthirsty attitudes; it is a question of observing the law. Without this there cannot be any democracy.

If I can finish what I was going to say stemming from my impressions of Kamchatka, I have to mention the things being said there that I had not expected to hear. Hold-ups with food supplies, constant ceilings on pay, confusion, and nonobservance of the law will increase the irritation up to a particular level when this price reform is adopted, around the middle of next year, as is expected. That will give rise to real anger and indignation, and then the ideas of restructuring will turn out not to have the support of the people, quite simply. Then when they set upon them with their bare hands, no one will be the least bit worried about that. That is what they are predicting there, fantastic things. Well, when you hear these thoughts unexpectedly they really are fantastic, but if you think about it the pattern is a very realistic one.

Miners' Day Celebration Held in Moscow

Dolgikh Attends

LD2608223688 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] On 28 August our country will be celebrating Miners' Day. A festive meeting was held in Moscow today to mark this professional holiday. In the presidium were Comrade Dolgikh and senior CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers staff, heads of the industry, and front-ranking production workers. Since January 1988, the industry has been transferring to full financial autonomy and self-financing. It was pointed out at the meeting that reorganization of production and extraction of coal will make it possible to give the national economy more of the raw material and fuel that is so necessary. A considerable part of profit, more than R4.5 billion, is to be allocated in this 5-year plan to housing construction and the social needs of working people. Those who spoke at the meeting referrred to the course of development of the industry and about how to make easier and more productive the miners' difficult labor.

Voronin in Presidium

LD2708103388 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0230 GMT 27 Aug 88

[From the "120 Minutes" program]

[Text] A meeting was held in Moscow on 26 August to mark Miners' Day. In the presidium were Comrades Dolgikh, Voronin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and others. A report was delivered by Comrade Shchadov, USSR minister of the coal industry.

Shchadov Addresses Meeting

LD2808214088 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0801 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Presented by Galina Vinogradova]

[Excerpts] As you know, today is Miners' Day, and you will shortly hear an interview with Mikhail Ivanovich Shchadov, USSR Minister of the Coal Industry. But first here is some brief information that our editorial office has drawn up about the minister.

Mikhail Ivanovich Shchadov is a deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, a member of the CPSU Central Committee and a State Prize and USSR Council of Ministers' Prize laureate. Mikhail Ivanovich is a Siberian. He was born in Irkutsk Oblast, and his parents were peasants in the village of Kamenka. After leaving Cheremkhovo Mining Technical Collage he worked as a section mechanic at the Pyataya-Biysk coal mine. This was followed by studies at Tomsk Polytechnical Institute, and then a return to mine work; now as section head and then chief engineer and head of the coal mine. Later Mikhail Ivanovich became director of the association. Comrade Shchadov has now been working for 40 years in the mining industry. From 1977 he was deputy minister and since 1985 he has been minister of the country's coal industry.

That is, so to speak, the working part of his life. Now here is a little about Mikhail Ivanovich's family—with his permission, of course. The minister has three adult children. His daughter Tamara is a staff-member at the Academy of the National Economy, while his two sons, Ivan and Vladimir, following in the footsteps of their father, have become miners and are both working in Siberia. In fact the minister hopes that some of his six grandsons will also link their lives to the mining profession—the hard and wonderful vocation of real men.

But now, as we promised, here is the interview with Mikhail Ivanovich Shchadov. He was interviewed by our special correspondent Aleksandr Belotserkovets:

[Begin recording] [Belotserkovets] Mikhail Ivanovich, how are the miners ushering in their holiday, and how have they been working this year under the new conditions?

[Shchadov] They have extracted 14 million tonnes of above-plan coal, including 5.7 million tonnes of coking coal. Compared with the corresponding period last year a significant increase in extraction has been achieved. The entire increase has been obtained by increased productivity.

[Belotserkovets] Are there any associations in the industry that are not coping with their plans?

[Shchadov] The number of associations in the industry not fulfilling their plans is decreasing. Nevertheless, this year four associations have not fulfilled their state plans since the start of the year and now owe the state about 200,000 tonnes of coal.

[Belotserkovets] How many associations are there in all in your industry?

[Shchadov] All told there are 52 associations in the industry.

[Belotserkovets] Mikhail Ivanovich, being out frequently on assignments and claiming that one-third of your working time is spent on assignments—in fact you have just come back from the Kuzbass and you were recently in the Donbass—you take a constant interest in the work of the ancillary holdings.

[Shchadov] The industry has 840 ancillary holdings and 70 sovkhozes. For every working person they have produced over 12 kilograms of meat, 34 kilograms of milk, and about 100 kilograms of vegetables and potatoes. However, we are not satisfied with that. We have drawn up plans—and this is fully realistic—to increase the output of produce for every miner. For this purpose we plan in 1989 to allocate more than R40 million of capital investments and to use the funds to build several additional vegetable and fruit coldstores. In our ancillary holdings it is planned to bring into use over 50,000 square meters of housing and also schools and clubs.

[Belotserkovets] Mikhail Ivanovich, in this same program our listeners will be hearing about the latest snap check by our editorial office on winter preparations. At present we are receiving a great many letters, especially from the Ukraine, where listeners complain that not all the necessary work was carried out last year, and that this year the situation is bad with regard to fuel. They complain particularly of low quality and of the fuel being not coal but just dust. What is being done to rectify the situation? How will the industry help the population to prepare well for the winter?

[Shchadov] One must say that the complaints against the miners and the industry's management concerning low quality of coal and the incomplete provision of the population with fuel are objective and fair. At the present time we are not sufficiently well prepared to satisfy the household sector and communal requirements with high-grade coal and briquettes. We are therefore now seeking opportunities to increase considerably the supply of high-quality ordinary coal. This will make it possible for us to much improve the provision of fuel to the population in the winter period. [passage omitted] Today on behalf of the ministry's collegium and the central committee of the Coal Industry Workers' Trade Union I cordially greet you, dear miners, on your professional holiday. I wish all of you good health and great success in this work which is hard but so necessary for everyone.

Oil, Gas Industry Roundtable Views Targets

LD2408220888 Moscow TASS in English 2148 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—By TASS correspondent Andrey Orlov:

The basic targets of the first half of the 24th five-year plan period have been attained, but formidable difficulties are yet to be overcome. This is, perhaps, the main idea of the "round-table" which has been held at the USSR Ministry of Building Enterprises of the Oil and Gas Industry (Minneftegazstroy) with the participation of Soviet and foreign newsmen.

The ministry, the world's biggest contractor for the construction of oil and gas fields and trunk gas pipelines, is today moving further ahead to the north of the USSR, said Gennadiy Shmal, first deputy minister. While in the 11th five-year plan period (1980-1985) that was the construction of Urengoy, in the 12th five-year plan period (1986-1990)—Yamburg, the main objective of the 13th (1990-1995) five-year plan will be Yamal Peninsula. It is planned to invest 46,000 million roubles in the construction of facilities there. The new field will start producing gas already by the year 1991.

At the same time many things are still in short supply for the resolution of that task: In the first place powerful pipe layers, excavators and other advanced equipment which the machine-builders promise to supply only by the middle nineties. With the available level and volume of equipment (1,500 million roubles of imported equipment and Soviet equipment worth the same sum), Gennadiy Shmal noted, we are not prepared to develop Yamal. It is necessary to draw lessons from the past and carry out in advance the necessary nature protection measures in Yamal.

A familiarisation trip for Soviet and foreign newsmen will be sponsored there in October to get first-hand knowledge of the progress of work in the fields of Yamal, the spokesman for the ministry said.

In 1988 the ministry has worked in new conditions, the participants in the meeting noted. The apparatus has been reduced by 37 per cent. The staff of the industry has been reduced by 13 thousand men. It is planned to go over to full cost accounting beginning from 1989. Yet Minneftegazstroy is not ready for that so far.

The foreign economic ties of the ministry are broadening, it was pointed out at the meeting. An example of that is the construction of gas mains towards the western border of the USSR with the broad participation of partners from the socialist countries. The world's first coal pipeline Kuzbass-Novosibirsk being built with the assistance of the Italian firm Snamprogetti will be commissioned soon. Its operation will make it possible to increase considerably the role of coal in the country's fuel balance.

Minneftegazstroy will do all work involved in the construction of new deposits in Surgut and Urengoy at the request of international consortiums with the participation of American, Japanese and Soviet partners.

The Soviet-Canadian joint venture for the manufacture of snow and mud vehicles, which has been recently set up is, so far, the only one despite the numerous proposals by foreign partners, the representatives of the ministry said. Things are as a rule hampered by outstanding isues of settling mutual accounts, the prices and the inconvertibility of the rouble.

Economic Competition, Rivalry Welcomed

LD2708091488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The latest press release by the USSR State Committee for Statistics contains data on what and how much was lost or failed to reach the shops in the right condition. These are disappointing figures. For example, over the past 6 months, consumers failed to receive 2,000 tons of meat and poultry—they proved to be unfit for sale. Over 27 percent of all checked eggs were declared unfit for consumption, and 1200 tons of sugar failed to reach their destinations.

The list of losses is extensive, and is not limited to foodstuffs. For instance, over the same period of time, 4.3 million pairs of shoes and 1.7 million garments were rejected.

However, the situation concerning the present figures is not all bad. For example, losses of meat products, grain, fruit, and vegetable preserves were down compared with last year. Perhaps it would be too daring to associate this with the development of the new forms of economic activity—leasing, cooperatives, joint enterprises with foreign firms—for that sector in the economy is still too small. One would like to believe that the time will finally come when efficient economic competition and rivalry among various sectors of the economy is launched.

Agricultural

'Recommendations' on Farm Leases Published

PM2608154988 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 27 Aug 88 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Recommendations for the Organization of Lease Relations in Agricultural Production"—boldface italics as published]

[Text] ***The USSR Gosagroprom and the V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences have drawn up "Recommendations for the Organization of Lease Relations in Agricultural Production," the text of which is published in the newspaper today.***

Different forms of contract—collective, family, or individual—are being widely developed in agricultural production at the present stage.

The best form is a contract based on the leasing of fixed production capital. Leasing in agro-industrial production reflects an economic relationship whereby the lessee leases land, productive livestock, equipment, and other means of production from a kolkhoz, sovkhoz, or other enterprise or organization for long-term use in exchange for a certain payment and for the purpose of significantly increasing the output of production, improving its quality, and making effective use of fixed capital and resources. The legal and economic relations between lessee and lessor (kolkhoz, sovkhoz, or other enterprise) are determined on the basis of the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association), the USSR Law on the Cooperative System in the USSR, and other legislative acts.

Teams, stock units, and cooperatives established within farms, as well as individual families, kolkhoz members, and sovkhoz workers can work on leasing terms on kolkhozes and sovkhozes and in other enterprises.

Lease contracts for the production of output can be concluded with kolkhozes, sovkhozes, or other enterprises by citizens or groups of citizens united within a collective and not being kolkhoz members or workers in the sovkhoz or enterprise.

Lease Relations on Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes With Collectives and Individual Families, Kolkhoz Members, or Sovkhoz Workers Within the Farm Concerned [subhead]

Mutual relations between a kolkhoz board or the directors of a sovkhoz or an enterprise with leasing collectives or individual lessees shall be determined by contract (Appendix 1).

Agricultural and other land parcels, working and productive livestock, equipment, tools, buildings, facilities, and other resources for production and nonproduction purposes alike can be leased.

The term of the lease shall be determined by agreement between the sides with due consideration for specific conditions. In any case, land parcels shall be, as a rule, subject to long-term (up to 50 years) leases by deed (Appendix 2).

The leasing of land must be effected subject to the lessee's complete material liability and interest in improving soil fertility and ensuring protection of the environment (ecological conditions). The land lease deed shall specify soil fertility indicators (humus content and so on). In the event of soil fertility declining or the leased natural resources being damaged through the lessee's fault, he shall be fully liable to reimburse the cost of work on their restoration.

The amount of lease payments shall be reduced by the amount invested by the lessee on land improvement (irrigation, drainage, amelioration work, and others) or on the building of production facilities according to estimates agreed with the lessor.

Farms shall make no depreciation provisions for production facilities built at the lessee's cost.

In addition to using the fixed production capital acquired under a lease, lessees can acquire joint or private ownership rights to tractors, agricultural machines, motor vehicles, production and cultural and consumer service buildings, and equipment at prices applicable to kolkhozes and sovkhozes, to be paid for from their own funds, bank credit facilities, or the farm's loan funds.

Lessees shall be entitled to build the necessary premises for production and nonproduction purposes on the leased land parcel with the lessor's agreement. On the expiry of the contract, compensation for the costs of building production and other facilities shall be paid on terms prescribed in the contract.

Team, link, and family collectives shall be granted full independence in the utilization of leased resources.

Lessees shall pay to the kolkhoz or sovkhoz lease payments specified in the contract for the land, productive livestock, and other fixed production capital. (Footnote) (Lease payments may not be fixed for the use of land and other production resources transferred by kolkhozes and sovkhozes to contract collectives, families, or individual citizens. In such cases the lease payment shall be equal to the difference between the contract price at which the lessee sells his produce to the kolkhoz or sovkhoz and the price at which it is actually sold by the farm.)

Output produced by the lessee in the volume and range prescribed by the contract shall be sold by the lessor or on his behalf directly to procurement enterprises and organizations under contracts at state purchasing prices (without taking into account differentiated price supplements) or at intrafarm accounting prices (contract prices). The entire output produced over and above the volumes prescribed by the contract shall be sold by lessees at their own discretion.

The seeds, feed, fuels, lubricants, spares, and other material resources and services used in the production process envisaged by contract commitments shall be acquired by lessees from farms at fixed plan or contract rates.

Lessees (teams, links, cooperatives, families, or individual workers) may have their own personal account directly at farms' accounts offices or current accounts at bank branches.

Estimated profit [raschetnaya pribyl] per hectare of land (head of livestock) shall be used to determine the size of the lease payment.

The lease payment for land shall be calculated taking account of its fertility (economic assessment, soil quality), and lease payments for animals shall be determined taking account of their pedigree and productivity on the basis of specific farm conditions. Lease payments for hardware, equipment, buildings, and installations shall be charged at the rate of normative depreciation provisions.

In order to enhance lessees' interest in the use of unproductive land and old stockraising premises lessors, shall be entitled to lease them for temporary use on preferential terms (without charging for the lease, by reducing the lease payment, deferring payment to subsequent years, and so forth). Land on loss-making farms may be leased for the first few years without charge.

Lessees shall benefit from all types of social welfare and social insurance, including pensions, vacations, and unemployment benefits, on an equal basis with kolkhoz members and sovkhoz workers. Lessees shall reimburse farms' expenditure on social insurance, payment for vacations, and insurance payments on the basis of existing normatives.

Lease payments shall be paid to farms and shall be part of their income.

Lease payments may be made in kind by mutual agreement between enterprise and lessee. In such a case the principles for determining the payment shall be the same as those used in determining a lease payment made in specie.

The value of the equipment, production buildings, livestock, and necessary equipment leased for an agreed period shall be determined on the basis of balance-sheet (residual) value.

Lessees shall be reimbursed for losses caused by natural disaster or other inclement conditions by insurance payments received by farms (or by lessees directly) from the USSR Main Administration for State Insurance, and in exceptional cases from funds allocated by farms on a contract basis.

Lessees may hire citizens not forming part of a lease collective for work under labor contracts during busy periods. Their pay shall be negotiated by the parties concerned.

Lease relations concerning subsidiary and auxiliary production units, housing and municipal facilities, and also kolkhoz and sovkhoz service sectors shall be established on the same principles as laid down in the these "recommendations" for agricultural production, but also taking account of their inherent features. Lease payments for equipment, buildings, and installations shall be set at the level of depreciation provisions laid down for the main production unit.

In the event of contract commitments not being observed, the lessee or lessor shall be entitled to unilaterally dissolve the contract—as a rule, after the end of the agricultural year and having given the other side not less than 2 months' notice.

Lease collectives shall keep an income and expenditure account book to record produce received and sold and spending on production. Transactions may be settled by check or other documents laid down by the contract.

Lease Relations Between Kolkhozes, Sovkhozes, and Other Land Users and Individual Citizens Who Are Not Sovkhoz Workers or Kolkhoz Members [subhead]

The relationship between cooperatives and individual citizens who are not sovkhoz workers or kolkhoz members on the one hand, and farms on the other, shall be determined by contract (Appendix 3).

Contracts (on a competitive basis, as a rule) may be concluded by citizens (independently or on behalf of a collective) who have attained their majority and express a desire to work under lease conditions.

The relationship between the sides shall be determined following the procedure envisaged in Section One of the "recommendations," bearing in mind the following features.

Lessees (cooperatives, groups, or individuals):

Shall enjoy the rights of legal persons and shall have an account at a bank branch;

Shall dispose of all their produce as they see fit;

Shall independently pay contributions out of their income to the state social insurance fund and pay income tax to the state at the rate set for kolkhozes to implement their rights to social insurance and social welfare;

Shall acquire the material resources and services needed for production from USSR Gosagroprom system enterprises and organizations (at wholesale prices) or from any other enterprise or organization at agreed contract prices;

And shall account for the results of their activities by following the established procedure.

The sides' property relations shall be regulated by the norms of the union republic Civil Code.

The text of the "Recommendations for the Organization of Lease Relations in Agricultural Production" together with appendices will be published in VESTNIK AGROPROM No 27 on 2 September.

Nikonov Decries Lack of New Methods

LD2801160480 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 0900 GMT on 28 August carries a 60-minute program entitled "Rural Hour," which features a discussion with farmers about the new contracting, leasing, and cooperative methods in agriculture. Taking part in the discussion is Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Nikonov, president of the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, who says early on in the discussion:

"I think that our discussion today and our situation in general arouse much anxiety and at the same time great hope. There is anxiety about the critical level we have reached. In places, the changes that have occurred are—let me be blunt—already irreversible. Sixty thousand villages in the non-Chernozem Zone no longer exist."

Nikonov says that there was also hope to be derived from the "very great wealth of experience" that has been acquired in the past 3 years. He said that in a group of Siberian oblasts there had been only one leasing collective in 1985, 800 last year, and now 4,200. "But so far this experience amounts to individual focuses of activity, mere islets, although these islets are growing. I think that really decisive measures are needed now. It is a question of either/or. Either we implement them, or we shall stagnate. I am not afraid of using such a word."

Nikonov calls for what he terms an "economic most-favored status" for leasing collectives, and regrets a "republican government decision" that fixed the prices for spare parts destined for leasing collectives at three times the normal level. "In practice we proclaim the need to desseminate leasing, but then we immediately cut it off. What sort of behavior is that"?

The Agricultural Sciences Academy president criticized "dog-in-the-manger" policies that were holding back the development of new labor organization methods in agriculture. "We have people who behave in a dog-in-the-manger manner, if you'll pardon the expression. Things don't work, a farm goes to ruin. But as for switching it to a cooperative or leasing basis, the attitude displayed is that it will all come to no good."

Another contributor to the discussion, Yuriy Fedorovich Bugakov, chairman of the Bolshevik kolkhoz in Novosibirsk Oblast, adds: "For many years we have done everything we could to alienate people from the land. We attempted to do all we could to erode the distinction between town and country. And we have been so assidious in eroding it that we did not notice that we wiped the peasant off the face of the land; he simply does not exist on the land any more." Bugakov said that it had been a mistake to define a farmer as someone who merely drives a tractor: "We completely failed to consider what would happen in the autumn—whether the goods would be delivered or not."

Contract Teams Producing 'Impressive' Results

LD2708222588 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Now we take a look at the performance of Soviet agriculture this year. Harvesting is in full swing. Experts say this time Soviet farmers have grown more grain than they did on the average over the last few years. In some areas harvesting is hindered by drought, and in others by prolonged rains. Statistical reports say contract teams have been doing better than anybody else. It's such teams that are expected to bring about a major increase in farm produce in a few years to come, and what's important is that no additional investment will be required. Radio Moscow's Commentator Boris Morkovnikov explains why, and this is what he writes:

Huge resources have repeatedly been invested in agriculture but the results have been inadequate. It's been established that the material basis of both cooperative and state farms is not the only factor for success. It's equally important how independent the farm workers are and to what degree they are interested materially in the final result.

Team contract allows for solving this set of problems. Some have been saying that team contract in agriculture is a new undertaking in this country. This isn't so. Team contracts had existed in the USSR until the mid-thirties. With the introduction of the command management system it was abolished. Cooperative and state farms had to follow orders from above, which resulted in food shortages, something we haven't done away with to this day.

As the Communist Party launched the drive for renewal, it rejected command management methods in order to promote a new type of economic relations in agriculture. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes have been gaining economic independence and restoring team contract. They have rented land, farm machinery, and buildings to teams of workers and have been providing cattle with fodder and machines with fuel. They are also in charge of collecting and selling produce grown by the contractors, who are paid for their work in keeping with prices established in advance. And this isn't all: Both kolkhozes and sovkhozes have been granting contractors paid leave and free vouchers to health resorts and financing outpatient clinics and schools. All the contract workers have to do is to use the rented land and equipment with the highest efficiency.

The results have been impressive. In Uzbekistan, Central Asia, the efficiency of contract workers is twice or three times higher than that of workers in ordinary teams, and their earnings are higher respectively. Quite a few Soviet farmers already work on team contract. However, their number could be much greater. A great deal depends on the managers. Each contract agreement requires well-organized and efficient performance by the managerial staff, but many are not used to working like this. So, for their own sake the conservatives have been blocking this progressive form of labor organization. Apparently there has to be a special law that would protect all those who are eager to work on new terms.

Meanwhile, the state committee on the agricultural and industrial complex has recommended extending up to 50 years the time for which land, machinery, and livestock farms could be granted on lease, and this decision is likely to put farm workers in a truly commanding position.

Mid-August Weather, Crop Status Reviewed

PM2508151588 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 24 Aug 88 p 3

[Agrometeorologist A. Grishina report: "Weather and Crops"]

[Text] Warm weather prevails over the USSR's European territory. Conditions for completing the grain crop harvest and feed procurement were favorable for farms in the Ukraine, Belorussia, Lithuania, the Central Chernozem Zone, the southern Volga Valley, and the Central Region.

Winter crops sown in early August in the Northwestern, Northern, Volga-Vyatka, and Central Regions were at the stage of sprouting their third leaves, while early-sown crops started tillering. The best time for sowing winter crops in the Baltic republics, Belorussia, the Central Chernozem Region, and north and west Ukraine is in late August and early September. The reserves of productive moisture in the arable layer are good, ranging between 25 and 35 mm.

Corn grain in the southern part of the USSR's European territory has reached the waxy ripeness stage. The milky ripeness stage has been reached in the Ukraine's western oblasts. Milky ripeness of seeds was recorded in the Baltic republics, Belorussia, the Central Region, and the central Volga Valley. The gathering of crops for silage is under way. Sunflowers have reached the stage of physiological ripeness of seeds.

The weather remains warm and mainly dry in West Siberia and Kazakhstan's northern oblasts. Early spring grain crops have reached the waxy ripeness stage and have fully ripened in several rayons.

The weather was cool in East Siberian crop farming regions. A slight frost was recorded in places in southern Krasnoyarsk Kray and Irkutsk Oblast. Temperatures gradually rose later. There was little rain in Krasnoyarsk Kray and western Irkutsk Oblast. Spring grain crops reached the milky ripeness stage. Potato flowering has finished in Krasnoyarsk Kray. Conditions for phytophthora growth developed in Irkutsk and Chita Oblasts. The weather was warm and rainy in the Far East, and this created difficulties for harvest work.

Moderately warm weather, mainly without precipitation, prevailed in the Central Asian republics. There was slight rainfall in places in Kirghizia and also in Tashauz, Krasnovodsk, and Ashkhabad Oblasts. Conditions remained favorable for the growth of cotton bolls. By 20 August the average number of bolls was 6-8, rising to 10-14 in Ashkhabad, Mary, Chardzhou, Kurgan-Tyube, Kulyab, Surkhan-Darya, and Khorezm Oblasts. This quantity of bolls is near average. They have gradually started to open. Farms in a number of places are starting to harvest.

Agricultural Developments for 25-28 Aug Noted

LD2908015288 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 25 to 28 August. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

25 August:

The grain cut on the first half-million hectares in Tselinograd Oblast has been threshed. (0400)

Cotton picking has started in Uzbekistan, with thousands of pickers in the fields this morning in Andizhan and Surkhan-Darya Oblasts; so far picking is being done by hand but shortly machines will be used. Over 2,000,000 hectares are now allocated to cotton in the republic, and experts expect a good crop. (0600)

In Kazakhstan grasses have been gathered from 25,900,000 hectares, which is 80 percent of all haymowing land in the republic. Mass laying-in of silage is beginning everywhere. Three oblasts—Alma-Ata, Dzhambul and Taldy-Kurgan—have fulfilled the state plan for haylage procurement. (1100)

In Altay Kray 1,500,000 hectares of bread grain have been cut. This is one third of the total area. Harvesting rates are lower than last year because of rainy weather and the shortage of tires, which is keeping 4,000 KamAZ trucks out of use. (1800)

In Belgorod Oblast mass sowing of winter crops has begun. Over 420,000 hectares is to be sown. (1800)

26 August:

Grain harvesting has almost come to an end in the Gomel, Grodno, Brest and Minsk Oblasts of Belorussia. For the republic as a whole, the yield has been more than 27 quintals per hectare. Northeastern regions have now begun sowing winter crops. (0400)

Mass harvest has started in the virgin lands oblasts, where grains are on the area of 15 million hectares, which represents almost two-thirds of the grain-growing area of the republic. In Tselinograd Oblast the harvest has already been gathered from 70 percent of sown areas. (1330)

27 August:

Harvesting work is proceeding in complex weather conditions in the Altay. Nevertheless grain crops have already been reaped on 1,500,000 hectares, which is one-third of the total sown area. (0600)

Farmers of Kabardino-Balkaria have overfulfilled their plan for grain deliveries with more than 95,000 tonnes to their credit, which is 15,000 tonnes more than last year. Most of the grain is fine varieties of wheat. (0900)

28 August:

PRAVDA analyzes the preparations for the cotton harvest in Uzbekistan. This year the republic is carrying out the work in a more organized fashion. In Tashkent Oblast most of the cotton-harvesting machinery is already in shape. In Karakalpakiya, Syr-Darya and Khorezm Oblasts, PRAVDA notes there are still many machines awaiting repair. Preparations for the reception and processing of the raw material are proceeding only slowly and more than 100 cotton stations have still not been overhauled. This could also have an effect on the pact of cotton procurement and on its quality. (0230)

Harvesting of grain and pulse crops is being completed in the Mari ASSR non-Chernozem Zone. A severe drought has meant that in the autonomous republic as a whole this year's harvest is "much lower" than last year's. Front-ranking farmers are helping out those farms particularly affected by the drought. (1100)

Altay mechanizers have threshed grain on the first million hectares—a quarter of the sown area. Farms are completing the harvesting of winter rye, barley, and peas, and efforts are now being concentrated on the main crop, spring wheat. (1100)

Briefs

Ecological Problems

Speaking of the acute ecological problems in the Kuban area, correspondent Vladimir Obraztsov reports that each year every hectare of land in Krasnodar Kray is treated on average with 10-15 kg of chemical herbicides and pesticides. Rice paddies receive most of all. Professor Yevgeniy Borisovich Velichko of the Kuban Agricultural Institute says that the use of these chemicals in rice paddies is badly polluting the Kuban River. Cases have been known where the level of toxic chemicals in the river has in places been 1,000 times the permitted level. Such water must not of course be used for washing hands, preparing food, bathing, or even crop irrigation. Pollution of the river has led to the disappearance of the famous Azov vimba species of fish. Velichko says that the overuse of herbicides on rice fields has led to pollution of the waters of the Sea of Azov and to the death of fish. Overuse also leads in fact to a decrease in rice yields themselves. He points out that over the past 12 years Krasnodar Kray has fulfilled its annual rice sales plan only once. Recently two rice-growing areas locally decided not to use herbicides next year. [Summary] [*LD2808024588 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Aug 88*]

Scientific

'Soyuz TM-6' Launched With Soviet-Afghan Crew

LD2908082288 Moscow TASS in English 0636 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, August 29 TASS—The Soviet Union launched a spacecraft, Soyuz TM-6, today at 8:23 Moscow time [0423 GMT].

The spacecraft is manned by an international crew comprising veteran commander Vladimir Lyakhov, physician Valery Polyakov and Afghan research cosmonaut Mohmand 'Abdullah Ahad.

The flight programme provides for the craft's linkup with the orbital complex Mir (Peace) and joint scientific studies and experiments with the cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov who have been working in near-earth orbit since December 21, 1987.

The Soviet-Afghan space mission has been envisaged by an agreement between the Governments of the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to telemetry information, the on-board systems of the spacecraft Soyuz TM-6 are functioning normally.

The cosmonauts Lyakhov, Polyakov and Mohmand are feeling fine.

Commander's Pre-Launch Statement

LD2908054788 Moscow TASS in English 0529 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 29 TASS—It is about ten years now since my first flight to the near-earth space. Space engineering has qualitatively changed over the time, experiments have become more sophisticated, but invariable remains the peaceful purpose of all explorations carried out with the help of Soviet space vehicles. This has been said today in his pre-launch statement by pilot-cosmonaut of the USSR Vladimir Lyakhov, commander of the international Soviet-Afghan space crew, who went into outer space today from the Soviet Baykonur cosmodrome at 08.23, Moscow time.

Citizens of the two countries—the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan—are to go to outer space aboard the Soyuz TM-6 spaceship to carry through a programme of experiments aboard the orbital complex Mir, he said. Our joint flight is yet another step in international cooperation in space exploration in peaceful purposes and a fresh manifestation of the strengthening relations between the peoples of the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan.

Afghan's Pre-Launch Remarks

LD2908055588 Moscow TASS in English 0546 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 29 TASS—"I'm glad that the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan has entrusted me with the great honour of joining Soviet brothers on this space mission," Afghan research cosmonaut Mohmand 'Abdullah Ahad has pointed out in his pre-launch remarks.

The spacecraft Soyuz TM-6 blasted off with a Soviet-Afghan crew today at 8:23 Moscow time.

"Being a son of my proud people, I will carry along not only joy but also sorrow for my homeland gripped by a fratricidal war," the Afghan cosmonaut went on.

Addressing his compatriots, he said: "Brothers, stop the war and direct your forces towards building a durable national peace.

"Let us make independent, neutral and non-aligned Afghanistan peaceful and united, and our people happy.

"To see peace on my land is the most cherished dream of mine."

Expressing gratitude to the participants in the preparation of the space mission and all Soviet people, Mohmand 'Abdullah Ahad said: "Friendship is a valuable possession of the peoples in our countries, and the joint space mission will become a new, impressive page in its history."

Biographies of Crew Members

LD2908082688 Moscow TASS in English 0629 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 29 TASS—The spacecraft Soyuz TM-6 with a Soviet-Afghan crew on board has entered the near-earth orbit. The crew comprises commander Vladimir Lyakhov, physician Valeriy Polyakov and Afghan research cosmonaut Mohmand 'Abdullah Ahad.

Lyakhov, a pilot cosmonaut who was twice awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, was born on July 20, 1941 in the city of Antratsit, Voroshilovgrad region.

On graduating in 1964 from the Kharkov Higher Air Force College, he served in the Air Force. Lyakhov has the qualifications of "Air Force pilot, 1st class" and "test pilot, 3rd class."

Lyakhov joined the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1963.

In 1967, he was enrolled in the cosmonauts' unit. He completed two space missions: the first, 175 days long, in 1979 on board the spacecraft Soyuz-32 and the orbital station Salyut-6, the second 150 days long, in 1983 on board the spacecraft Soyuz T-9 and the orbital station Salyut-7.

He received the qualification "cosmonaut, 2nd class."

Polyakov was born on April 27, 1942 in Tula. In 1965, he graduated from Moscow's I.M. Sechenov Medical Institute. Polyakov took part in medical support work for the crews of the spacecraft Soyuz and orbital stations Salyut. He holds a degree of candidate of medical sciences.

Polyakov joined the CPSU in 1970.

He has been working at the Institute for Medical and Biological Problems at the USSR Health Ministry since October 1971.

Polyakov began preparations for space flights in 1972.

Mohmand 'Abdullah Ahad, a citizen of the Republic of Afghanistan, was born on January 1, 1959 in the township of Sarda, Shangar district, Ghazni Province. He is a Pashtun.

Upon graduating from school in 1976 he joined the Kabul Polytechnic.

Mohmand 'Abdullah Ahad is a member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan since 1977.

In 1987, he was drafted into the Army and sent to the Soviet Union to undergo military training. After graduating from an Air Force school, he served in Afghanistan's Air Force. In 1987 he graduated from an Air Force academy and continued his service.

In February 1988, Mohmand 'Abdullah Ahad started training for a joint Soviet-Afghan mission at the Yuriy Gagarin cosmonauts' training centre.

He completed preparations for a flight on the spacecraft Soyuz TM and the orbital complex Mir.

Official Views Soyuz Launch, Other Projects

LD2708154488 Moscow TASS in English 1229 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Baykonur Spaceport August 26 TASS—TASS special correspondent Valentin Ovacharov reports:

A complex composed of the Soyuz TM-6 spaceship and a rocket-booster was rolled out of the assemble-and-test building and installed on a pad to hurl a Soviet-Afghan crew toward Mir orbital station at 8:23 Moscow time on August 29.

Lieutenant-General K. Kerimov, chairman of the state commission, told correspondents that both crews underwent the last medical examination and are allowed to flight. One of the crews involves pilot cosmonaut of the USSR Vladimir Lyakhov, researcher physician Valeriy Polyakov, and Mohmand 'Abdullah Ahad, citizen of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The other crew are headed by pilot-cosmonaut of the USSR Anatoliy Berezovoy, researcher physician German Arzamazov, and researcher cosmonaut Muhammed Dauran. On Sunday, the state commission will decide which of the crews will rocket aloft. And on Monday, following a cycle of the so-called general tests of all systems, a command will be given to fill the rocket-booster with fuel components.

Not only Soviet and Afghan journalists but also representatives of the press of the German Democratic Republic, Italy, the United States, France, West Germany, Switzerland and Japan have witnessed how the complex was rolled out and installed in a vertical position.

Quite a few foreign guests have visited Baykonur in recent months. Representatives of the world's largest insurance companies, scientists and journalists from 12 countries, who take part in the implementation of the Phobos project, have already been here. The delegation of the U.S. Air Force have also familiarized themselves with the Soviet spaceport.

Responding to newsmen's questions, Kerimov emphasized, in part, that Soviet scientists and engineers could raise the infallibility of the operation of manned space vehicles up to 96 per cent. Their aim is to achieve absolute infallibility.

The results of ten years of cooperation within the framework of the Intercosmos programme are no less impressive. Cosmonauts from Czechoslovakia, Poland, the GDR, Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, Cuba, Mongolia, and Romania have worked aboard Soviet spacecraft and stations since 1978. The first Soviet-French space mission thundered aloft in 1982. The second such mission, now scheduled to last a month, will lift off on November 21 this year. Representatives of India and Syria worked in orbit together with our cosmonauts.

The general noted that Energiya heavy booster rocket, which is designed to hurl into orbit up to 100 tonnes of payload including reusable craft, may be launched for the second time even this year.

'Mir' Cosmonauts Continue Experiments

LD2608130388 Moscow TASS in English 1129 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—TASS correspondent reports from the Mission Control Centre:

The Soviet cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov are completing another work week on board the orbital complex "Mir".

Over the past few days, the crew carried out several series of geophysical and astrophysical exploration, a number of biological experiments.

The cosmonauts participated in work under the programme of the aerospace experiment "Kuban-88", whose aim is, in particular, a survey of the coastal areas of ploughland subjected to wind erosion, detection of sections of farmland oversaturated with mineral ferilizers, evaluation of the degree of overgrowth of the lakes of the Azov Sea with aquatic vegetation. At request of specialists the crew carried out photography and spectrometry of the Krasnodar and Stavropol territories.

Experiments for the synthesis of polyacrylamide gel necessary for perfecting the technology of obtaining biologically active compounds on earth has been carried out in the equipment "Svetoblok-T".

Today's schedule of work on board the complex provides for astrophysical research with the use of the orbital observatory "Roentgen" and equipment "Mariya", medical examination of the crew.

Preparations are continuing on board the cosmodrome Baykonur for the flight of the Soviet-Afghan crew. The spaceship "Soyuz TM-6" is to be launched at 8:23, Moscow time, on August 29.

Prepare for 29 Aug Mission

LD2608103188 Moscow Tass in English 0959 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 26 TASS—TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova reports:

The Soviet cosmonauts on board the orbital space complex Mir (Peace), Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov, are soon to meet an international Soviet-Afghan crew.

The start of the mission is slated for August 29.

The resident crew are getting things ready for the visit tidying up the premises and allotting extra sleeping places for the new arrivals.

The hosts of the "space home" also had a bath: Strange as it might seem, the orbital complex Mir offers cosmonauts a shower in a special unit.

Drying up one's body, a simple enough task on earth, demands a special approach in zero gravity: water forms a thin film on the skin, which is very hard to remove. A special towel that quickly absorbs moisture is used for that.

A universal method has been devised to apply a detergent that features active disinfecting properties.

The cosmonauts have this kind of "bath" on a regular basis. Titov and Manarov have been in orbit for more than eight months.

The main and standby Soviet-Afghan crews are undergoing pre-launch training at the Baykonur space centre. The first crew comprises Commander Vladimir Lyakhov, physician Valeriy Polyakov and Afghan research cosmonaut Mohmand 'Abdullah Ahad.

Commander Anatoliy Berezovoy, physician German Arzamazov and Afghan research cosmonaut Muhammed Dauran Ghulam Ma'sum are on the standby team.

One of the crews will blast off on Monday at 8 am Moscow time.

Personal hygiene kits have been prepared for the visiting crew for daily cleansing of the skin, various lotions that feature cleaning and germ-killing effects.

Much attention on board the Mir station is given to dental care. The kits include special tooth brushes, medicinal chewing gum and thin waxed threads for cleaning between teeth—this is extremely important for keeping one's teeth healthy, specialists believe.

Military

Army, Navy Political Aktiv on Restructuring

PM2608130188 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Aug 88 First Edition p 2

[Correspondent Colonel V. Semenov report: "By the Criteria of Restructuring. Meeting of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate's Party Aktiv"]

[Text] The implementation of decisions made by the party will stand no delay and, proceeding from the interests of the cause, it is important to embark on this immediately. To act without violent swings, resolutely sweeping aside all obstacles in the way of progress along the path of restructuring. This is a brief outline of the keynote idea that dominated a meeting of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate's party aktiv at which Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, read a report on party organizations' practical work to implement the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference and the CPSU Central Committee July (1988) Plenum.

Noting that the 19th all-union party conference was a major event in the life of the party and the country and an important stage in the development of the Leninist line of the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum and the 27th CPSU Congress, while its decisions—enriched by the existing experience in restructuring—are a clear-cut action program that enables a significant acceleration in the processes of revolutionary renewal, the speaker said:

"The all-union conference did not specifically examine questions concerning the country's defense or the activity of the Soviet Armed Forces, but its decisions include new approaches to military building and the organization of the troops' entire life and activity. On the basis of profound Marxist-Leninist analysis of contemporary reality, the party produced a principled stipulation: All defense building must be geared primarily to qualitative parameters as regards equipment, military science, and the Armed Forces' composition. While guaranteeing the reliable security of the Soviet Union and its allies, it must be implemented strictly in line with our defensive doctrine.

"These demands amplify the objectives of restructuring in the Army and Navy and provide guidelines for the work of military cadres, political organs, and party organizations."

Taking part in the debate on the report were Colonel A.A. Smirnov, Lieutenant General V.D. Lukinykh, Captain Second Rank G.A. Torgashev, Colonel General V.S. Nechayev, Lieutenant General N.V. Shapalin, Colonel P.P. Abramov, Major General V.M. Dudnik, Colonel A.Ye. Ivanov, and Major General A.Ye. Baklanov. The main speaker and the other speakers emphasized that much has already been done to bring new approaches to the activity of military cadres, the development of party and Komsomol organizations' activeness, and the ensuring of Communists' vanguard role in combat training, service, and discipline.

At the same time, a sober analysis of the situation cannot fail to show that progress often coexists with stagnation, readiness for change with conservatism, and activeness with indifference. Combat training has not become systematic and has not attained the necessary qualitative standards everywhere. Organizational, political education, and ideological work still fails to guarantee radical changes in the state of troop discipline. The problems of facilities for and the daily life of troops, especially in some isolated garrisons, remain acute, as does the problem of providing housing for the families of officers, ensigns, and warrant officers.

Being perfectly realistic and without flattering ourselves with the small changes for the better, it was said at the meeting, we must admit: Many shortcomings in the training of troops and naval forces, in combat alert duty and combat service, and in troop discipline are rooted in the activity of political organs, party and Komsomol organizations, and, self-critically speaking, the Main Political Directorate.

The deep-rooted causes of the braking process have not yet been eliminated. These are, primarily, freeloading attitudes in the party environment, initiative and creative quest being replaced by inertia, and the tendency of people to constantly await guidance "from above" and every sort of instruction and prodding from someone else.

Apathy toward social questions has a sharply negative effect on the state of affairs; it is an attitude of bureaucratic indifference toward the most acute problems that affect people, their needs, and their daily concerns. Is this not why, it was remarked at the meeting, we have to say with regret that in the past people were more eager and more willing to approach the party leader or political worker? They confided in them and went to them for advice, help, and protection.

Among the deep-rooted causes of the braking process are the administrative methods of management and leadership. Many instances can be cited of central apparatus representatives essentially doing nothing but diverting party secretaries from specific work, from living work with Communists. They are forced to compile all sorts of reports and statistics. This situation cannot be tolerated. It is time to put an end to diktat. It is necessary, participants in the party aktiv meeting said, to persistently restructure the forms and methods and the approaches and modes of our activity, to aim for effective influence on the state of affairs in political organs and party organizations. What we are saying is that at the

local level people should be happy to see us. They should believe: We are welcoming comrades, fellow members of the party ranks, who will teach us, encourage us, and support us in difficulties.

Today the political and organizing stance of every official of the Main Political Directorate and its subunits is more decisively important for restructuring than ever before. Indeed, according to its lofty purpose the supreme party organ in the Army and the Navy is called upon to generate new approaches in the political, military, and spiritual spheres and to set the tone and example in the struggle against shortcomings in combat training, manifestations of bureaucratism in management links, indiscipline, slackness, and irresponsibility.

What must be done first? The main efforts of the Main Political Directorate and of political organs and party organizations must be concentrated primarily on creating reliable mechanisms of renewal, on action on each of the 19th all-union party conference resolutions. This means actively implementing the fundamental directive on the priority of qualitative parameters in defense building. It means sharply enhancing the prestige of enterprising, honest, and competent labor. It means cultivating public opinion against complacency, contentment with achievements, and the established mentality of mediocrity as phenomena that are incompatible with the acceleration of renewal. It is necessary patiently and thoroughly to teach political organs and party organizations to be independent and to create in them an atmosphere of searching for bold approaches, criticism and self-criticism, and creativity.

The restructuring which has been launched everywhere encourages us to bring the teaching and self-education of people in the apparatus up to contemporary standards. It is necessary to persistently eliminate the remnants of a conservative and bureaucratic mentality, to create a stronger scientific potential within the Main Political Directorate.

The party conference decisions prompt us all to review in a principled and self-critical manner and to exactingly assess the results of past activity; to bring to light the true factors applying the brakes to the growth of qualitative indicators in combat and mobilization readiness and to the fulfillment of the CPSU Central Committee's demands to strengthen organization and discipline; and to implement effective political measures in the interest of the deepening of restructuring. It is necessary to persistently develop glasnost and openness in the work of the Main Political Directorate and all its links.

It was noted at the meeting that cadre policy problems are a major sticking point. The requisite conclusions must be drawn from the results of the 19th all-union party conference. While creating a favorable atmosphere for the growth of worthy and active champions of restructuring, it is necessary to get rid of the so-called "average people," of the mediocre and the unskilled, of irresponsible people lacking initiative. It is necessary to skillfully combine experienced and young cadres. Glasnost becomes highly important in cadre policy. People in party organizations are not indifferent about who is promoted in the ranks and who is nominated for awards and titles. The principles of social justice must operate flawlessly. This is why it is so important to comprehensively take into account the opinions of officers meetings, certification commissions, and party and Komsomol organizations. Protectionism must be uprooted.

Competent organization of work is the paramount task of the central apparatus. This important quality is somewhat lacking in some of our directorates and departments. It was said at the meeting that inspection groups at times give inadequate attention to the actual situation among troops and in fleets, in political organs and party organizations. They apply the "cavalry charge" method. They do not know where to look for advanced experience in party, ideological, and Komsomol work. Reports on work at the local level are often formal and "photographic." They often miss acute and topical problems and lack a properly inquisitive approach toward new phenomena and trends.

The all-union party conference set the task of bringing the forms and methods of party organizations' work in line with the CPSU's role as society's political vanguard. New and complex tasks arise in this context. The Main Political Directorate, the political directorates of the branches of the Armed Forces, the political organs, and the party committees and bureaus must intensify their organizing potential and boost the militancy of party organizations, the service and social activeness of every Communist, and his responsibility for a personal contribution to restructuring. Particular attention must be given to the key questions of renewal and of organizational, political, and ideological work.

The vanguard role of Communists, it was emphasized in the report and speeches, is a perfectly specific term. The determining criteria here are personal examples of high-quality labor and moral irreproachability, the party member's closeness to and concern for people, and his skill in mobilizing subordinates to attain high end results. There must be consistent implementation of the principle: The effectiveness of example lies in its imparting a real contribution to combat training, work, troop discipline, and people's education....

Educational work on an individual basis must be raised to a qualitatively new level. This idea ran through many speeches by participants in the meeting. A noteworthy statistical fact: Some 85 percent of our subunits with their own party organizations and party groups have no record of breaches of the law. Some 94 percent of these subunits have no record of violations of regulation relationships. But the potential of party influence is far

from being fully utilized. There is need for considerable improvement in the activity of political departments and party organizations as regards leadership of the Komsomol.

There is no need for slogans or loud appeals; what is needed is daily hard work geared not to "the masses in general" but to the specific individuals who perform specific tasks in specific conditions.

It was emphasized at the meeting that fundamental importance is attached to the forthcoming report and election campaign in party organs. It will be unique, unlike any such campaign in the past. It is important to ensure that the spirit of the party conference and its democratic atmosphere and critical orientation filter down to local levels and ensure a combination of the ideas of restructuring with practical deeds by every party organization, renewal of all intraparty life, and democratization of party leadership.

It was emphasized at the meeting that to develop democracy in the Army and the Navy means to ensure full exercise of political and civil rights by servicemen. While rigorously meeting the demands of the USSR Constitution and laws and of the military oath and regulations, it is necessary to maintain by all possible means the authority of one-man command and those exercising it, to galvanize the activity of party, Komsomol, trade union, and all other elected organs, to strengthen the spiritual closeness of commanders and subordinates, officers and soldiers, and to observe unconditionally the principle of social justice at all levels—from units and plants right up to the Ministry of Defense.

The meeting expressed concern that the flow of official paperwork has not diminished in the last few years. There is a widespread practice of requesting a multiplicity of reports, statistics, and all sorts of information. Political organs must consistently implement the conference directives, decisively overcome elements of bureaucratism, improve the style and methods of management activity, not supplant grassroot party organizations, and enhance cadres' party responsibility for the end results of the training of troops and naval forces.

Bureaucratism and party-mindedness are incompatible. It is necessary to intensify the struggle against manifestations of departmentalism and parochialism, of conservatism and red tape. Leadership cadres must strictly observe Soviet laws and military regulations, and officials guilty of procrastination and severe practices must be taken strictly to task along party lines.

The party conference has set us a major political task—to turn service in the ranks of the USSR Armed Forces into a proper school of internationalism. It was emphasized in the report and the other speeches at the meeting that it is necessary to create an effective mechanism for the personnel's international education in the Army and the Navy. In particular, it was proposed to organize a uniform and clear-cut system for the management of this process. There was also talk about skilled instruction of the command and political cadres and aktiv, and of enriching them with experience in educational work in multinational servicemen's collectives. The principle of equal and even treatment of soldiers from different ethnic groups must become the basic principle of their practical activity.

The participants in the party aktiv meeting examined a number of questions concerning the restructuring of the Main Political Directorate's apparatus and the improvement of the structure and functions of all its links.

Today's primary task, it was emphasized during the meeting, is to competently and vividly propagandize the ideas of the 19th all-union party conference. All forms and methods of ideological and political education work, cultural and educational institutions, and the mass media must be broadly utilized in multifaceted activity to study and explain the report by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and the 19th all-union party conference resolutions.

The decisions have been made, the course has been verified. The participants in the meeting pointed out the need for Army and Navy party organizations to concentrate their efforts on practical implementation of the conference directives. Their fulfillment must encourage people to act with total dedication in the interests of restructuring, the interests of enhancing the qualitative parameters of combat readiness and discipline.

Our time is figuratively and aptly portrayed as a time for action and specific deeds. It is these that render restructuring irreversible. Innovative approach, boldness in search of and support for the new, and the overcoming of conservatism must become an inalienable part of the style and methods of work by all political organs and party organizations in the Army and the Navy.